

GOVERNMENT



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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Canadian Embassy in Nanking has warned Canadians that they should consider the desirability of leaving North and Central China, unless they have compelling reasons to remain. This warning is intended to anticipate any difficulties which may arise in the event of the spread of hostilities southward. It does not at present apply to the large number of Canadians resident in West and South China.

On November 1, all British subjects including Canadian citizens, were advised by the British Consuls General in Peiping and Tientsin to leave North China while transportation facilities were available, unless they had urgent reasons for staying. The Canadian Embassy in Nanking associated itself with the issue of this advice to Canadian citizens in North China.

The Canadian Ambassador to China, who has been in close consultation with his British and United States colleagues, has now extended similar advice to Canadians in the Shanghai-Nanking area. The following is the text of a letter circulated by the Canadian Vice-Consul in Shanghai to all Canadians within his district:

"To all Canadian nationals residing in the provinces of Kiangsu and Anhwei:

"Economic unrest, coupled with an increasingly acute shortage of food supplies and fuel, makes it appear that Canadians remaining in Shanghai and its environs during the forthcoming winter may be subjected to undue hardship. The uncertain military situation in North China also makes it appear possible that hostilities may spread further south, with the result that normal transportation facilities from Shanghai may be disrupted.

"It is suggested, therefore, that, unless you have compelling reasons to remain, you consider the desirability of evacuation while normal transportation facilities remain available. Expectant mothers, women with small children, and elderly persons, are especially advised to leave the Shanghai area before winter sets in".

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