

was visited by Professor SIU PING-CH'ANG. Was he an emissary sent to sound me? Are they afraid that I have lost interest and am revolving new plans?

*Wong:* Yes, probably. He came to hear your opinion. They are evidently anxious lest they have gone too far with their claims and you don't consider it worth your while to answer. But get into touch with him to-morrow. He is a very influential man. The National University is the centre and the real focus of the opposition against you. And he is one of the most powerful men in the university. Get hold of him and speak with him and LIU.

*I:* Another matter that is not touched upon in the fifteen articles is the question of a popular travel-book.

*Wong:* So much the better. Don't bring it up at all. Several such questions can be settled afterwards.

*I:* Isn't it possible that the committee might be furious if I write such a book without consulting them?

*Wong:* I don't think so. If you wish you can reserve to yourself the right at this juncture. Have you been in touch with Wai-chiao-pu lately?

*I:* Yes, through Mr YUNG, who has been kept informed of the position the whole time. He has certainly related everything to WANG YIN-T'AI and Dr Koo.

*Wong:* I happen to know from the most reliable source that Koo has spoken with the leader of the opposition and asked them to come to an arrangement with you in a quiet and friendly way.

### TENSE SITUATION IN PEKING

Mr TSENG, the Chinese Minister in Stockholm, had just returned to Peking, and he was convinced that within six months there would be a new, stabilized régime also in North China and that it would then be easy to get permission to fly. On March 31st the situation was tenser than ever. The German Minister considered things to be so critical that he telegraphed to Berlin, declaring that he could not answer for the safety of the German members of the expedition. The Russian sinologue, IVANOV, was more optimistic. Things would of course look very different in Peking in a year's time. But he did not believe there would be bloodshed; at the worst, demonstrations by the students. FENG YÜ-HSIANG might possibly occupy the town if CHANG TSO-LIN withdrew to Mukden. Merchants brought their curios and other valuables to the Legation Quarter for safety's sake, in case anything should happen. Our expedition was made the subject of the liveliest debates, and the five members who still remained