

Peking story (American prisoners in China) - correspondence, letters and ca...

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Peking story - 1954

21 June

Press Releases conc. the fourth meeting
between the representatives of the
Chinese and U.S. Delegation.

Press Release

PROC/08

Press Office

June 21, 1954

Delegation of the People's Republic of China

A fourth contact was made this morning between the representative of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China and the representative of the U.S. Delegation on the question of nationals of each side residing in the areas of the other side and the question of Chinese students in the U.S. The Chinese side put forward successively three proposals which, however, failed to obtain the agreement of the U.S. side to any of them.

In order that the law-abiding nationals and students of each side residing in the territory of the other side will feel assured that their freedom and right to return to their motherland whenever they wish are adequately affirmed, Chinese representative Wang Ping-nan proposed that the two sides issue a joint communique, and submitted a draft which reads as follows:

"The Delegation of the People's Republic of China and the Delegation of the United States of America to the Geneva Conference have made contacts in Geneva on the question of overseas nationals and students. Each of the two sides has indicated that its government will respect the right of the law-abiding nationals and students of the other side residing in its territory to leave its territory for their own country. These nationals and students shall have the freedom to return at any time to their own country."

The U.S. representative did not agree to this proposal. Mr. Wang Ping-nan then proposed that the above proposed text be made a part of the common records of the two sides as a point of mutual understanding. The U. S. representative did not agree to this proposal either.

Mr. Wang Ping-nan then pointed out that in 1950 the American side requested the representative of the United Kingdom in Peking to take charge of the interest of American nationals in China. The situation prevailing at the time made it impossible for the Chinese Government to consider this question, Mr. Wang Ping-nan said. Since the situation now has had some change, Mr. Wang Ping-nan stated, the Chinese Government thinks that on a mutual and equal basis such measures could be considered. That is to

say, the U.S. could ask the diplomatic mission in China of a third country which has diplomatic relations with both sides to take charge of the interest of the U.S. nationals in China; and similarly, the People's Republic of China could ask the diplomatic mission in the U.S. of a third country which has diplomatic relations with both sides to take charge of the interests of the Chinese nationals and students in the U.S. The U.S. representative stated that he considered this suggestion to be beyond the scope of this contact. Mr. Wang Ping-nan asked the U.S. representative to give this matter further consideration.

Chinese representative also furnished the American side today with the preliminary findings concerning the list of Americans allegedly to be held in China which the U.S. side handed over to the Chinese side on June 10. They include such informations as that of Mr. and Mrs. Christian who had been granted recently exit permits and sailed from Shanghai on June 18; and the case of the 11 personnel of a U.S. Naval patrol plane and a rescuing plane who have never been in the hands of the Chinese side. These two aircraft mentioned by the American side plunged into the sea, ten nautical miles off Auk of the Nan-au Island in Kwangtung Province, and the Chinese side had no information as to what happened subsequently to the crews on these aircraft. A number of American nationals and military personnel, according to these preliminary findings, are held in China because of their law-breaking activities, violation of the territorial air or intrusion into the territorial waters of China.

The U.S. representative asserted today that of the 120 Chinese students, who, according to the American side, had been denied permission to leave the U.S., a recent survey showed that approximately half of them now want to return to their own country. The U.S. representative also declared that any Chinese in the U.S. is entirely free to depart for any destination of his choice in accordance with laws of the U.S. and pertinent regulations governing the departure of aliens.

Commenting on today's contact between the two sides, Huang Hua, spokesman of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China, pointed out that as a result of the pressure placed by the U.S. Immigration authorities upon the Chinese students and nationals in the U.S. who had applied for leaving the U.S., a great number of Chinese students and nationals have grave apprehensions. Some of those who applied for return, for instance,

were subjected to interrogation as long as four hours by the U.S. Immigration authorities without permission to have a lawyer with them; and they were placed under the danger of being charged of perjury. It is believed that once the reasons for their apprehensions are removed, many of the 5,000 Chinese students in the U.S. will apply for return.

Pointing out that the U.S. representative had declared that any Chinese in the U.S. is entirely free to depart for any destination of his choice, Mr. Huang Hua expressed the hope that this promise will be carried out by the U.S. Government.

It might be recalled that in the last contact, Mr. Wang Ping-nan informed the U.S. side that it is the practice of the Chinese Government to consider commutation or an early release for any of the law-breaking Americans now imprisoned if his behavior is good.

At the end of today's contact, it was agreed that each side should appoint a staff officer ^{to} continue to provide to the other side new information when it is available.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

USDEL/39 (PR/26)
JUNE 21, 1954

In continuance of the effort to obtain the release of United States citizens imprisoned or otherwise detained in Communist China, Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson met again on June 21 with a representative of the Chinese Communist Delegation. In this fourth meeting Ambassador Johnson made the following statement on United States policy regarding the departure of Chinese from the United States: "Any Chinese in the United States is entirely free to depart for any destination he wishes in accordance with the laws of the United States and pertinent regulations governing the departure of aliens."

In the last meeting the Communist Chinese representative requested that certain Chinese students in the United States who had been denied permission to leave be allowed to return to their homeland and Ambassador Johnson at that time stated he would request that their status be reviewed by the United States Government on the basis of applicable United States laws and regulations.

Today Ambassador Johnson informed the Chinese Communist representative that a general survey of Chinese in the detained category had already been completed and that it has been learned that approximately one half no longer wish to leave the United States.

He further stated that a review of those who still wish to leave is now in progress. The review of fifteen cases in that category has been completed and in each case the Attorney General of the United States is now prepared to permit their departure from the United States. The Chinese Communist representative was handed a list of their names. Ambassador Johnson pointed out that the United States Government had acted swiftly to re-examine the cases of detained Chinese and again urged that the Chinese Communists take action to expedite the release of imprisoned Americans. He also said that as the review of the cases of the remaining detained Chinese is completed the Chinese Communist representative will be notified of the results.

The Chinese Communist representative then took up the lists of detained Americans which had been submitted in the second meeting by Ambassador Johnson and furnished some preliminary information as to persons on those lists. This information will be communicated to relatives through appropriate United States Government agencies. The Chinese Communist representative said that investigation and examination of the cases of detained Americans is proceeding and that he would notify Ambassador Johnson when information regarding the disposition of their case becomes available.

Ambassador Johnson

Ambassador Johnson stated he could not agree to a proposal advanced by the Chinese Communist representative that a joint communique be issued as to the policies of the two sides with respect to nationals of the other. He pointed out that he had already made clear what the policy of the United States Government was with respect to the departure of alien Chinese from the United States.

Ambassador Johnson further stated his belief that the principal task remaining concerns the exchange of information on the progress of the investigations and as to what action is being taken by the respective sides. He felt that the exchange of such information can be adequately handled by staff officers. The Chinese Communist representative agreed that staff officers could be appointed to carry out this function.

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USDe1 41 (PR 29)
JULY 21, 1954

Carrying on the effort to obtain the release of Americans imprisoned or otherwise detained in Communist China, Alfred le S. Jenkins, a member of the United States Delegation met again today with a representative of the Chinese Communist Delegation, Mr. Pu Shan.

Called by the Chinese Communist Delegation, today's meeting was marked with a statement by Mr. Pu that the exit permit applications of six American nationals currently held in Communist China have been approved by Chinese Communist authorities. They are:

HOTZ, Ernest

LENZER, Reuben

LOMBARD, Linus

MAYE, John B.

MULLIN, Lawrence

PATTISON, Alfred Peter

The Chinese Communist representative stated further that the cases of other detained Americans are still under review. Mr. Jenkins expressed the hope that these detained Americans would be released shortly.

At the meeting on June 21, the Chinese Communist representative was informed that ^{a review of} the cases of fifteen Chinese students, previously prevented from leaving the United States in accordance with pertinent United States laws and regulations, had been completed and the Attorney General of the United States was prepared to permit their departure if they desired to leave. At today's meeting Mr. Pu was told that these fifteen students have now been notified that they are free to leave the United States.

Mr. Jenkins informed him further that the cases of other Chinese students desiring to leave the United States for Communist China are still under review. Any information concerning them will be transmitted as soon as it is received.

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