

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

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Peking story

30 Dec. 1954

U.N. General Assembly

a) Report of the Sec. Gen.

b.) Statement by Sec.-Gen. on Departure from New York  
(at HQ before leaving for Airport)



STATEMENT SECRETARY-GENERAL ON DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK

(To be recorded and filmed at Headquarters  
before leaving for Airport)

30 Dec.

You will recall that the General Assembly asked me, in the name of the United Nations and by the means most appropriate in my judgment, to seek the release of the eleven United States fliers and all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command still detained. I am going to Peking because I believe personal talks with Mr. Chou-en-lai, Prime Minister of the State Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, might prove to be helpful in the discharge of this responsibility. I do not know what the outcome will be. I can only say that I shall do my best, bearing in mind not only the important international interests so plainly involved, but also the very personal interests of the individual human beings and their families that are at stake.





UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



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COMPLAINT OF DETENTION AND IMPRISONMENT OF UNITED NATIONS MILITARY  
PERSONNEL IN VIOLATION OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly at its 509th plenary meeting on 10 December 1954 adopted a resolution under which the Secretary-General was requested, in the name of the United Nations, to seek the release, in accordance with the Korean Armistice Agreement, of eleven United Nations Command personnel, and all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command still detained.
2. Under paragraph 4 of the operative part of the resolution the Secretary-General was requested to make, by the means most appropriate in his judgment, continuing and unremitting efforts to this end and to report progress to all Members on or before 31 December 1954. The Secretary-General immediately addressed a cablegram, dated 10 December 1954, to the Prime Minister of the State Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (A/2888) expressing the desire to meet with him in Peking for direct talks.
3. The Prime Minister of the State Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, in a cablegram dated 17 December 1954 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2888), replied that he would be prepared to receive the Secretary-General in Peking to discuss pertinent questions with him.
4. In a cablegram dated 17 December 1954 addressed to the Prime Minister of the State Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (A/2888), the Secretary-General said that in view of the necessary practical arrangements he was not yet in a position to set a date for his arrival but that he would take the opportunity, while in Stockholm, of discussing such arrangements with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China.



5. On 19 December 1954, the Secretary-General met in Stockholm with General Keng Piao, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, and discussed with him various practical matters relating to the Secretary-General's forthcoming visit to Peking. This discussion served to clarify some of the pertinent arrangements.

6. The Secretary-General is leaving today, 30 December, for his visit to Peking, his departure having been somewhat delayed as the preparatory arrangements have been more time-consuming than at first anticipated.

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