

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

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Peking story

14 Jan. 1955

Bruce W. Munn (United Press Association, N. York)

- to A. Alm (Sec. Gen's secretary)

January 12 A 9 10.

United Press Associations
INCORPORATED IN NEW YORK
GENERAL OFFICES
NEWS BUILDING NEW YORK CITY

Room C-317
January 14, 1954

Miss Alm:

For the Secretary-General:

Attached is the only reference to Mr. Robertson's remarks I find in our files for yesterday. Since his speech was for release at 7 p. m., est, it is unlikely that any mention of it was made before that time.

The only other reference I find is in my own story out of here today, overnighting Mr. Hammarskjold's arrival, which includes this passage:

"A jarring note in the atmosphere of confidence and satisfaction came from Philadelphia, where Assistant Secretary of State Walter S. Robertson delivered a blistering attack on Red China and appeared to close the door on any possible deal on freeing the fliers.

"We are confronted in Peiping with an arrogant, contemptuous regime of hard-core international communists who have played a gangster role in their relations with us and other countries," Robertson said.

"Robertson, the State Department's expert on Far Eastern affairs, charged that the Chinese Reds have thrown U. S. citizens into jail without trial, tortured and brainwashed U. S. prisoners of war, blackmailed American businessmen and confiscated American property in China."

I trust this is what the Secretary-General wanted.

Cordially,
Bruce W. Munn
Bruce W. Munn

UPWA42

NIGHT

(AUTOMATIC RELEASE AT 7 PM EST)

PHILADELPHIA, JAN. 13.--(UP)--ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WALTER S. ROBERTSON SAID TONIGHT IN A BLISTERING ATTACK ON RED CHINA THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAVE PLAYED "A GANGSTER ROLE" IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FREE WORLD.

HE RULED OUT A UNITED NATIONS SEAT FOR RED CHINA, APPARENTLY ON ANY CONDITIONS.

HIS STATEMENT IN AN ADDRESS BEFORE THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CAME AS U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD RETURNED TO NEW YORK TO REPORT ON HIS EFFORTS TO WIN THE RELEASE OF 11 U.S. AIMEN AND OTHER U.N. PRISONERS HELD BY RED CHINA.

ROBERTSON'S DENUNCIATION OF THE PEIPING GOVERNMENT AS "ARROGANT" AND CONTEMPTUOUS" APPEARED TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON ANY POSSIBLE "DEAL" AIMED AT FREEING THE AMERICAN FLIERS. THERE WERE REPORTS PEIPING WANTED A DEAL THAT WOULD ADMIT COMMUNIST CHINA TO THE U.N.

ROBERTSON CHARGED THAT THE CHINESE REDS HAD THROWN U.S. CITIZENS IN JAIL WITHOUT TRIAL, TORTURED AND BRAINWASHED U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR, BLACKMAILED AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND CONFISCATED AMERICAN PROPERTY IN CHINA.

HE SAID HE IS FREQUENTLY ASKED WHY THE UNITED STATES FIRMLY OPPOSES RECOGNIZING COMMUNIST CHINA OR GIVING IT A U.N. SEAT.

MOREFP642P

UPWA 43

ADD ROBERTSON PHILADELPHIA X X X U.N. SEAT.

"WE ARE CONFRONTED IN PEIPING WITH AN ARROGANT, CONTEMPTUOUS REGIME OF HARD CORE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE PLAYED A GANGSTER ROLE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH US AND OTHER COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

ROBERTSON SAID THE LATEST EXAMPLE WAS THEIR SENTENCING AS SPIES UNITED NATIONS PRISONER OF WAR HELD IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE."

ROBERTSON SAID THAT RED CHINESE ADMISSION TO THE U.N. WOULD UNDERMINE "THE REAL CHINESE GOVERNMENT" OF GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK ON FORMOSA AND THE HOPE OF MILLIONS OF CHINESE EVERYWHERE.

"OUR RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA AND ACQUIESCENCE IN GIVING THIS CONTEMPTUOUS AGGRESSOR AGAINST THE PEACE OF THE WORLD A SEAT IN AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING THE PEACE OF THE WORLD, WOULD IN OUR CONSIDERED VIEW HAVE CALAMITOUS EFFECTS UPON THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF AND ON THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM EVERYWHERE," HE SAID.

ROBERTSON SAID THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNIST LEADERS ARE DEDICATED REDS JUST AS THE COMMUNISTS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. HE WARNED THAT ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST TACTICS VARY THE THREAT REMAINS THE SAME.

THE PRESENT COMMUNIST TACTICS, HE SAID, IS THE THEME OF "ALL-OUT PEACE OFFENSIVE, WITH A CENTRAL THEME OF COEXISTENCE."

HE SAID "THIS SIREN SONG OF COEXISTENCE" IS MAKING HEADWAY WITH SOME PERSONS BUT HE WARNED THAT THE PHRASE MEANS TO COMMUNIST BOSSES A POLICE STATE WHERE NO FREE VOICE IS EVER HEARD.

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UPWA 44

ADD ROBERTSON PHILADELPHIA X X X EVER HEARD.

ROBERTSON ALSO SAID THAT SOME FREE ASIAN NATIONS ARE MISTAKEN IN THINKING THEIR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES CAN BE GREATLY EASED BY EXPANDING TRADE WITH RED CHINA.

HE SAID COMMUNIST CHINA'S ECONOMY IS RIGIDLY CONTROLLED AND NOTHING IS EXPORTED OR IMPORTED UNLESS IT SERVES AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES OF THE COMMUNIST CHINESE BOSSES.

FP649P

delicate. We must
have both patience
& determination."

I intend to consult
Sap with Sec. Dulles
& we will study with
close attention what Mr. H.
said. There is,
naturally, disappointment
that the immediate ^{release} ~~of~~
of our prisoners is not
effected, but I
am confident that
progress has been
made & that our prisoners
will be free, ^{to} assuredly
by and not — and must
not — cease our effort
until they are. The