

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

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Peking story

28 Jan. 1955

D.H. - to Sir Pierson Dixon (United Kingdom De-  
- legation to the U.N.)

28 January 1955

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

After our talk this afternoon I have given the whole problem some further careful consideration. My conclusions rather confirm my immediate reaction that the best procedure will be

- 1) not to take a formal decision on an invitation;
- 2) to have some delegates say in the course of the debate that if the agenda is adopted, it follows from the rules that the People's Republic of China should be represented (and, if possible, that they would welcome such an invitation);
- 3) that it would further be said that if the agenda is approved, appropriate steps would be taken by the Secretary-General to prepare such participation;
- 4) that my implementation of the decision of the Council on the agenda should be by letter which can be treated by Chou En-lai as an invitation, but need not be treated in such a way and thus can be handled by him as an initial step in a discussion, leading to a clarification of the circumstances under which the P.R.C. will take part in the discussion.

The most essential point is the last one where the intentional ambiguity, which I think is tactically essential if we are to minimize the risk for a set-back, would be impossible in case of a formal decision on the invitation.

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