

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

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Peking story - 1955

8 - 18 March - 23 March

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Oxford, England)

- 2 letters from H. Waldock - to P. Lind and D.H.
- 1 letter from D.H.

7.29

ALL SOULS COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

March 55

Dear Per,

Many thanks for your two letters, a reply to which is, I am afraid, overdue. It is very kind of you to send me the photographs which are extremely good and impressive. It is even more kind of you to offer to print some of the coloured pictures for me. I have set aside 4 of the negatives which, if I read them aright, seem most interesting to me. I have an idea that these prints are horribly expensive and, if so, please only print the ones in which I myself appear. Not Vanity but economy! I think that this would be a good way to expend the $\frac{88}{1} \frac{57}{28}$ which you say results in my favour from our complicated transactions. But I fear that it may not go very far towards the expense. Please

7.29

let me know how it works out.

I have inserted the negatives inside my
U. N. Laissez-Passer, which I am due to return
for cancellation, as the Laissez-Passer will protect
them from damage. Would you please send on
the Laissez-Passer to Cordier or to whoever is
the appropriate authority? I also enclose a brief
note to Cordier, thanking him for dealing with
my expenses form.

Does not Polking seem a long way away?

I hope all the team flourish.

Yours sincerely

Humphrey Walden

ALL SOULS COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

March 23rd 55

My dear Secretary General,

Thank you for your letter

enclosing your draft minutes of the meetings of the Peking Conference. I have checked them carefully against my own notes and consider that you, Per Lund and Bok Lan have made an extremely good job of them. You may, however, like just to consider the following ^{minor} points—

(1) The phrase "the Chinese ~~Communist~~-Government," which occurs several times; e.g. on Page 9. In the mouth of Chan, this is, of course, all right. But when you are the speaker, would it be better to say "Mr Chan En-lai's Government" or use some other formula? — I mean, simply, for the record.

(2) Page 10 penultimate paragraph. You made a point about "speaking a different language" which is, I think, well retaining in the record. The addition would be to insert after the first sentence "if there was any difference in language, it was ^{because}"

Mr. Chan En-lai used the word 'spy' in a sense different from that used in international law.

(3) Page 12, penultimate paragraph, the special agent must remain anonymous; my notes don't give his name.

(4) Page 28, before the page begins, there was a tea and cookies interval at this point and during it Chan rather let fly about U.S. domination of the U.N. and you answered him. It seems to me an incident not without importance but you would doubt have treated it as a side-show outside the "talks". I don't disagree and merely notice the omission.

(5) Page 29, first para. The sentence "we don't guess or take out of thin air the motives of other people seems to me pretty cryptic unless you insert before it "The United States motive is expressed in the treaty" - which is in my notes.

(6) Page 31 bottom of (1). My note reads "From all this material it can be seen that the B-29 aircraft is used by Arnold in returning

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in an air space normally operated ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ
view of the essence of the question, we cannot for more
reasons of form absolve the persons concerned from
their offence and from the actions taken by them -
(which is a good deal easier to understand).

That is really all, apart from one or two
"editing points" for Per Lind which I enclose on
a separate sheet.

Many thanks for your previous letter telling
me how things had been going or not-going!
Does ~~Chen~~ ^{give} ~~provide~~ any reasons for holding on
to the 4 Jits - Pilots? - apart from the inflated
situation?

You may have seen ~~ed~~ ^{ed} the thing of
Sweden has graciously accepted ~~it~~ ^{it} as Honorary
Doctorate of Letters from ^{Oxford} the University and will
have it conferred upon him next May. It is
said that when he gets here, he is likely to
head straight for our collections of Chinese Art,
on which, I believe, he is very knowledgeable.

On Saturday, I am off to Strasbourg for a week for
a final run through the rules of procedure of the
European Commission of Human Rights and hope there
to meet - Petren again.

With kind regards to all the team,

Yours sincerely

Humphrey Walcott

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Editing Points.

- (1) Page 2, l. 5 : ? " between the various questions etc.
- (2) Page 2, 3rd para, line 6 " and were given him etc.
- (3) Page 3, line 3 . " When I accepted that task, given to me in this capacity the General Assembly, it was because² it is obvious etc. [Otherwise the senses go wrong.]
- (4) Page 19 para 2, l. 5 . ? " timidly followed the U.S. lead .
- (5) Page 22 l. 3 . " substantial " rather than substantive.
- (6) Page 27 para 2 . The figure 5000 is clearly wrong the second time : I believe it was

18 March 1955

My dear Waldock,

....
I send you herewith copy of Per Lind's and my notes on the Peking talks as checked by Bokhari. I would appreciate it if you would compare them with your own notes. I consider it desirable that we have on our files a copy of the notes from the talks which we can, all four of us, sign as giving an accurate picture of what took place. For that reason I would like to have your observations as soon as you find time to review the papers.

As you will find, the notes are not complete, but I do believe that nothing of significance for the future interpretation has been left out.

With kind regards,

Encl.

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