

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

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Peking story

7 April 1955

U.S. Interoffice memorandum to the Sec. Gen.
from Per Lind (Sec. Gen's secretary)
conc. accusations of improper treatment of Chinese students
in the United States

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

FILE NO. _____

DATE 7 April 1955

TO: The Secretary-General

FROM: Per Lind *ALind*

SUBJECT:

Miss Allen.

*Please, put this last in
the China file under
Washington.*

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The enclosed confidential note was handed over to me this morning by Mr. McSweeney of the United States Mission, who gave me the following background information:

The note contains a brief summary of instructions which have just been sent to the American Consul General at Geneva, to be used at a forthcoming meeting with the Chinese Communist representatives at Geneva in reply to accusations and arguments made by them at a meeting in Geneva on 31 March. It was as a consequence of that meeting that the State Department had put out the press release of 2 April, copy of which is enclosed, with regard to the Chinese students. The Mission had not been informed about the 31 March meeting at Geneva which was the reason why they had not, to their regret, been able to inform the Secretary-General in advance of the press release.

The date for the next meeting at Geneva has not yet been set. The situation is that the meeting was requested from the U.S. side a couple of days ago and that the Chinese replied that they had to await instructions.

April 7, 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

The Chinese Communist representatives will be informed that accusations of improper treatment of Chinese students in the United States are completely without foundation. The American representatives will point out the various types of aid Chinese students have received and the benefits which they have enjoyed. One evidence of this is the very small number out of a total of 3,600 who have indicated their wish to leave the United States.

Of the 27 students whose names were given to the Communists at Geneva, all were granted permission to leave. At least 15 have now departed, including 2 for Europe, 3 have decided not to leave and the remainder are postponing departure for personal convenience.

Of the 31 who petitioned the Secretary-General, 30 have now received permission to depart and action on the remaining one case is expected shortly.

Of the 26 who petitioned President Eisenhower, 24 have now received permission to depart. Decision on one case is expected shortly (this is the same case as mentioned in the paragraph above). There is no record that the remaining one student was ever denied permission to depart.

The total number of Chinese students whose departure was temporarily restrained before or since June 1954 but who are now permitted to leave is 103 (including 15 who have already left). Apart from several cases still under review, we now have no Chinese students who desire to return to the mainland and are prevented from doing so. The Communist allegation that 316 students are prevented from leaving is therefore false.

The Chinese Communist representatives will be informed of keen American dissatisfaction ~~at~~ their failure to give appropriate answers to questions asked in a meeting on February 28 regarding specific American citizens detained in Communist China. They will be asked why the Chinese Communist Red Cross has failed to respond to the American Red Cross cable of February 10 proposing methods of expediting deliveries of mail and parcels to Americans in Communist China. It will be re-emphasized to them that their failure to take action on cases of detained Americans has incurred the deep resentment of the American people; that it is a matter of importance and urgency that the Communists take action.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR THE PRESS

APRIL 2, 1955

NO. 182

The Program of Emergency Aid to Chinese students and scholars is expected to terminate on June 30, 1955. This of course does not affect the regular exchange program which is in effect between the United States and the Republic of China. No grants for tuition or maintenance under this emergency program can be continued or renewed after June 30, no requests for thesis or dissertation costs received after this date can be honored, and no requests for emergency medical expenses can be given consideration. Chinese students and scholars who desire to return to the Far East and who are eligible for travel grants to cover minimum expenses for transportation must be in actual travel status on or before June 30 in order to qualify for the grants. However, grantees wishing financial assistance for return travel prior to June 30 must present through their university representative substantial evidence to the Department of their need of financial aid for this purpose and of their definite arrangements for departure. All applicants for travel grants must present written permission from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to leave the country.

It has been brought to the attention of the Department of State that some Chinese students may refrain from applying to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for permission to depart from the United States for fear of being refused. This fear apparently is based on the fact that a number of technically-trained Chinese students have in the past been refused permission to depart from the United States under Section 215 (a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. In this connection the Department wishes to point out that the cases of such students have been in process of re-examination. As a consequence, restraining orders were rescinded on March 31 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the cases of 76 of these students, who are now free to depart, and it is anticipated that action will shortly be completed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on the few remaining cases.

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State--FD, Wash., D.C.