

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

HS L 179:81



National Library
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjöld's send.

Peking story - 1955

13 April - 21 May

Willers, Uno (Riksbibliotekarie, Dir. - Gen of
the Royal Library, Sweden)

- 5 letters/cables from D.H.
- 2 cables, 2 letters to D.H.

Telegram från Stockholm den 14 april 1955.

Strängt förtroligt. Till Hammarskjöld från Willers.

Akademiens sammanträde ändrat till fredagen 22
dennes. Nobelärenden på föredragningslistan. Vid person-
ligt besök på ambassaden till tolken framfört inbjudan
lunch eller middag lördagen 23 hos mig under annan adress.
Uppenbarligen intresserad reaktion. Keng Piao i Stock-
holm. Svar utlovat snarast. Jag meddelat besöket ännu
icke officiellt. I senare meddelande angående Ditt besök
bör anges såväl Nobeldiskussion som privata angelägen-
heter. Officiellt meddelande om resan bör icke lämnas
förrän jag haft tillfälle meddela kineserna. Utförligare
brev med extra flygkurir i morgon.

Käre Dag,

Som komplettering av mitt gårdagstelegram ber jag att få orientera Dig om följande: omedelbart efter telegrammets erhållande besökte jag Österling. Han kunde utan vidare naturligtvis svara, att Akademiens sammanträde skulle uppskjutas till fredagen den 22; som Du vet brukar sammanträdet börja kl. 17.00. För formens skull ansåg han det nödvändigt att orientera Akademien om denna förskjutning vid sammanträdet i går. På min anhållan gjordes det i den formen, att Du av privata skäl behöver komma hem ett tag, att Du lovat delta i ett sammanträde på fredagen och att Du kan väntas lämna en muntlig orientering rörande Ditt speciella uppdrag för Nobelkommittén. Vidare ombad Österling herrarna att ännu icke i någon form meddela, att Du planerade ett Stockholmsbesök. Österling har av mig fått en antydning om besökets verkliga innebörd. Han kommer icke låta någon förstå det. Det är emellertid absolut nödvändigt att resan här motiveras med både privata skäl och deltagande i Akademi-sammanträde. För alla eventualiteters skull har jag orienterat Bo i dag på morgonen, och han är helt klar på hur han skall möta eventuella senare förfrågningar angående Dina

Förenta Nationernas Generalsekreterare Dr

Dag Hammarskjöld,

New York.

privata angelägenheter.

Något senare i går ringde jag vår vän kinestolken, Hsieh Chi-Mei, och bad att få ett samtal med honom, vilket omedelbart gick att ordna. Jag ansåg det lämpligast att icke tala med Keng Piao direkt, då han väl bör beredas tillfälle till telegramväxling innan han tar ställning. Tolken, som jag träffat rätt många gånger efter lunchen, gjorde nu ett helt annat intryck: ytterst vänlig och uppenbarligen positivt inställd. Han lovade lämna svar snarast. Jag inviterade till lunch eller middag lördagen den 23. Om de acceptera, är det min avsikt att ordna den i en Lärkstadsvilla, som bebos av min mamma. Jag har ansett det lämpligast för att vilseleda pressen, och jag hoppas att Du icke misstycker. Jag förutsätter att Du önskar exakt samma personuppsättning som den 19 december och är tacksam för meddelande, om Du önskar någon förändring.

Jag sade kinesen att Din resa ännu icke var officiell, och det är därför angeläget, att jag får tillfälle till ett samtal med kineserna innan Du meddelar något officiellt om Din planerade resa.

Det kanske bör tilläggas att jag sade tolken, att Du av privata skäl och för deltagande i ett Akademisammanträde troligen skulle besöka Stockholm i nästa vecka och i samband härmed ville träffa Keng Piao.

Till detta brev fogar jag ett bläckbrev, som just var färdigskrivet när jag fick Ditt telegram i går. Som Du ser rör det sig huvudsakligen om Ditt verkligen intressanta och klargörande Nobelutlåtande, vilket även bifogas.

Din tillgivne
Uno

Uno Willers

Telegram från Stockholm den 20 april 1955.

För Hammarskjöld från Willers. På Keng Piao's begäran nyss besökt honom. Han ville gärna träffa Dig lördag kl. 13 men på lunch hos honom. På min fråga om han inviterade någon Du ville ha med Dig ingen entusiasm. Jag påyrkade meeting sekret även efteråt. Jag påpekade risk uppmärksamhet pressen meeting Kina-ambassaden, varefter han förklarat sig acceptera lunch mitt hem med Dig som värd utan mig vid samma tid. Enligt mitt förmenande detta möjligen lämpligare för Dig med tanke på tekniska möjligheter. Eventuellt kunde närvaro svensk tolk påyrkas. Meddela i så fall snarast. Utlovat dels Du accepterar ett av alternativen dels svar omedelbart efter Din hitkomst.

Broder,

Någon gång i början av året bad Dag mig att orientera honom om utläggerna för telegram i samband med Pekingresans planering i december. Då han påpekade, att det var Förenta Nationerna som skulle betala dessa utlägg, så tillåter jag mig härmed att översända kvittona tillika med ett sammandrag från Kungl. bibliotekets kassa. Jag har inte velat besvara Dag själv med denna angelägenhet, och jag vore Dig tacksam om Du skulle vilja föra den vidare.

Jag har dragit en lättnadens suck när den andra aktionen har kunnat fullföljas utan att saken blivit bekant i varje fall här i Stockholm.

Med bästa hälsningar
Din Angvane

Uno Willers

Uno Willers

Herr Förste sekreteraren Per Erik Lind,
New York.

13 April 1955

CABINET

STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)

SECRET FOR WILLERS FROM HAMMARSKJÖLD PLEASE FIND OUT IF KENG PIAO IS IN TOWN
AND COULD MEET ME SATURDAY 23 STOP IF SO BRING ÖSTERLING GREETING I COULD
ATTEND ACADEMY FRIDAY AND WOULD BE HAPPY DO SO BUT DUE SECURITY COUNCIL
COULD NOT COME IN TIME THURSDAY MEETING STOP IF ACADEMY MEETING IN SPITE
TRADITION POSSIBLE FRIDAY PLEASE FIX MEETING FOR ME WITH KENG SATURDAY
CONVENIENT PLACE ABSOLUTE SECRECY STOP SHOULD PLAN WORK OUT I HAVE TO LEAVE
FOR LONDON SUNDAY MORNING STOP IF ACADEMY ARRANGEMENT IMPOSSIBLE I MAY HAVE
TO COME ANYWAY BUT FEAR DIFFICULTIES IF NO REASON MY VISIT STOCKHOLM CAN
BE GIVEN

20 April 1955

SEKRET

WILLERS FRÅN HAMMARSKJÖLD ACCEPTERAR LUNCH MED MIG SJÄLV SOM VÄRD
ENSAM MED KENG OCH HANS TOLK UPPGÖRELSE OM PRAKTISKA ARRANGEMANG EFTER
MIN ANKOMST STOP VILL ALLTSÅ ICKE BESÖKA AMBASSADEN

10 May 1955

Dear Uno,

Warm thanks for your two letters, one sent by diplomatic pouch and the other one in the regular way.

First of all I must thank you again most warmly for your valuable and unfailing assistance in arranging the meeting in Stockholm, but also for solving quite a few of my other problems during my stay there. On our side the arrangements met with complete success and it was most valuable that all publicity was avoided. Now the inevitable (?) has happened as the Press has been informed about the meeting from the US side. I am sorry that happened as it may render impossible to use the same technique again. Anyway, this turn of events was entirely outside of our control.

It may interest you to hear that the results of the Stockholm talk were confirmed via one of the other channels I used in this context. My judgment stands: the talk you so kindly helped me to arrange, is one of the major events in the whole story.

It was a very pleasant experience to meet with the colleagues in the Academy. Even if my initiative should not lead to any result I feel that it has been useful as it has introduced a standard of comparison which puts other candidatures in a better perspective. On this score again I have to thank you for your help and advice.

As concerns the special points you raise in your second letter, my comments are as follows:

Riksbibliotekarie Uno Willers
Grevgatan 67
Stockholm
Sweden

a) I don't want any payment at all, but if it is unavoidable I would like you to have it paid to my cheque account with Stockholms Enskilda Bank (No. 07-24).

b) These and other bills should be sent to Advokat Magnus Lindahl, Norrmalmstorg 2, Stockholm.

c) I sent back all the material I borrowed for the Academy speech some time ago via diplomatic pouch. However, in the case of the books and the more bulky archive material I said that it could be sent by boat. That certainly explains that you have not received it already. I addressed it all to you, not knowing where else to send it.

d) I am quite agreed with your proposal that the address to my apartment in the telephone directory should be explained.

e) I am definitely interested in the rooms you talk about. When I get back, it is rather likely that I will not live in Stockholm and under such circumstances the rooms would be good when I attend Academy meetings. If and when I find the opportunities to visit Stockholm while still being with the United Nations, they also might be quite useful although I guess that in most cases, for convenience's sake, I would prefer something like the present arrangement which protects me much better. However, I take it that you ask about my interest in the long run and then my reply is that I definitely have such an interest.

As you know my visits to Sweden in general, and to Stockholm especially, are nowadays always fraught with the most ridiculous complications because of the publicity angle. I felt that this last visit, as it turned out, might break new ground as nothing came to the press which had any real news value. With the unfortunate publication to which I have referred above, I fear that things next time will be worse than ever, because I shall find it exceedingly difficult to convince the press that a visit to Stockholm has no further objectives than those publicly stated. Let us, however, hope that the prisoner problem will be solved so that that special source of suspicion concerning the aim of my coming to Stockholm will be discarded.

I don't know how I will be able to arrange my time this summer, but I guess that I may get a few days in between in Skåne, and then it will be a very great pleasure indeed to go to Falsterbo and to see Österling and Gullberg. That, at least, should not give raise to any political speculations, but I fear that from the angle of Veckojournalen and similar papers it may be considered quite juicy and that for that reason my poor colleagues will find their privacy broken by press photographers. Anyway, that will not detain me from trying. Drifting around the Skåne countryside by car, I should be able to minimize the risk.

One thing, which you probably have not observed, but which complicates matters, is that I may have to be in Skåne just at the time of a birthday which our dear countrymen insist on using as a reason for major noise. I shall try to avoid that and disappear completely, but it may not be possible, and, if so, I fear that all the bad experiences from last summer will be repeated and worsened. I hope that you do not believe that I am turning shy in some kind of Garbo style: I think I take it with a sufficient quantum of good humour, but I would like to find some way of avoiding present absurdities.

From the cold in Stockholm I came straight to the full summer of Geneva and Paris. In Paris I saw the Malraux play as you gather from the program which I sent to you. It was a very impressive production which demonstrated clearly the forcefulness of Malraux and of the Paris stage. Malraux' hot engagement in moral and ideological problems and his crystal clear dialogue made a great impact on the public - but I have never sensed the spiritual distance between Paris and Washington more strongly than that night.

With kind regards,

21 May 1955

Dear Uno:

Warm thanks for your letter of 17 May.

The background of the Åhman story the other day as well as of my own words about an unfortunate leakage was that Mr. Lodge in a press conference said that I had negotiated in Stockholm with the Chinese Ambassador during my recent visit. The day before this declaration of Lodge's I had myself had the press conference to which you refer in which I had made the completely innocuous statement that I had been in touch with the Chinese during my trip to Europe, leaving open whether it was in Stockholm, London or Geneva, which all were possible places. Lodge's declaration was embarrassing from my point of view, not only for the reasons I gave you last time, but also because his going beyond the point where I had set the limit, put me in a slightly ridiculous position in relation to the press. When Lodge discovered what he had done, he was quite upset - however, we have had luck. The news value of Lodge's leak here was considerably reduced from the American point of view by the fact that I had talked about European contacts. Sven Åhman for some reason at that stage was discrete, and when he later put it in as an aside in his article on the Boheman dinner, it did not matter. My personal worry about this special channel was based on the fact that if the press got the impression that they had been fooled, they would make it practically impossible to manœuvre in Stockholm the next time.- If any need for a Stockholm contact develops, I shall be happy to consult you on how to organize it.

Mr. Uno Willers
Grevgatan 67
Stockholm, Sweden

I am most grateful to you for your very generous and friendly proposal for the 29th. I know too little about my whereabouts at that time to be able to form any plan at all. However, it seems to me very unlikely that, if I get any days in Sweden, I shall find it possible to go up to Stockholm which necessarily adds a couple of days of travel. I would also much rather avoid passing Stockholm at all. For that reason I am afraid that I shall not have much of a chance to accept your very kind invitation. Another possibility would be if you would permit me to invite a few of you to some anonymous place in the South of Sweden (of course, I shall have to stay away from Hagestad). As it is the "reportage" that I fear, I don't know if it makes much sense to make the arrangement with TT: All the same, I would be happy if you made it whatever the effect may be.

Sohlman's visit to Peking was most unnecessary, and his call on Chou En-lai very bad indeed. I don't think any harm will be done but why give people a chance to laugh at the naïveté or to believe that Sweden has joined the eager beavers fighting for a place in the sun as mediators?

I am happy to meet Leif in Paris next week where I will go this afternoon.

den 20 maj 1955

Broder,

Tack för Ditt brev den 29 april angående de utlägg
Kungl. biblioteket haft för telegram för FN.

Som framgår av närslutna brevkopia, har vår finans-
avdelning anmodat Midland Bank att per flygpost verkställa
återbetalning av vår skuld, kr 14,6:70.

Om ytterligare utlägg gjorts för vår räkning, hoppas
jag Du vill låta mig veta, så att jag kan se till att de
blir ersatta.

Riksbibliotekarie Uno Willers
Grevgatan 67
Stockholm

1 bil.

PL/is