

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

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Dag Hammarshjölðs sent.

Peking story - 1955

3 June

Hart Schaaf, C. (Resident Represent, U.N. -
- TAB, Israel)

- 1 letter to D.H.
- 1 press clipping.

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VIA UN POUCH

3 June 1955

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold:

I can't refrain from writing to you of the geyser of delight in my heart at reading just now in this morning's Jerusalem Post of the Honolulu statements of the four released airmen.

According to the Post the pilots attribute their freedom to your visit to Peikin; and one of them even stated, "The biggest moment in our lives came when we met Mr. Hammarskjold".

What is so wonderful, as I see it, in this development is not only the dramatic acknowledgement of your efforts, but also the tonic effect this development is bound to have on the future development of public understanding in the United States of the activities and potentialities of the United Nations.

Cordially,

C.Hart Schaaf
Resident Representative

Mr.D. Hammarskjold
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

S:m
Enclosure

Rev. Post ————— *3/11/55*

Freed Airmen 'Well,' Thank Hammarskjold

HONOLULU, Thursday (UP)—Four American fighter pilots, just released from a Chinese prison, tonight attributed their freedom to the visit to Peking of the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold.

The four airmen, who were deported from China yesterday, arrived here this morning. After a complete medical check-up, in which they were declared in "fine physical condition," they faced interviewers and a battery of microphones in the Officers Club at Hickam Field.

Lt. Lyle Cameron declared: "The biggest moment in our lives came when we met Mr. Hammarskjold. I only hope that the U.N. has enough influence to free the rest of our people."

At the United Nations today, Mr. Hammarskjold said he would not relax his efforts to persuade China to free 11 other American airmen still held as spies.

He disclosed at his Press conference that he would confer with Mr. Krishna Menon some time next week. Mr. Menon, of India, recently returned from conferences with Prime Minister Chou En-lai in Peking. Mr. Hammarskjold also hoped to see U Nu when the Burmese Prime Minister visits the U.S. later this month.