

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

*HS L 179:82a*



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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Peking story - 1955

10 June - 14 Aug.

Lodge, Henry Cabot (U.S. Representative  
to the U. N.)

- 4 letters from D.H.
- 2 letters to D.H.

10 June 1955

Dear Cabot,

When you called this morning I was so rushed that I just gave you the "professional" replies to your questions. However, there was something of a personal nature that I wanted to add. May I do it in this way instead. The idea to have the meeting "at the summit" in Geneva, and in the Palais des Nations, makes me very happy. I said yesterday that the moment the wish was expressed, it was for us a "must" to meet it - and I said so not only from a professional viewpoint, but much more as a reaction to the general pattern which is developing. I feel that in this and in other cases - I have in mind, among recent events, also for example the Eisenhower and Truman arrangements - so much can be done unostentatiously in happy cooperation between you and me, so much that adds up to something quite essential as an addition to the stature of the United Nations in world opinion. I hope you feel that I am willing to go to any end in helping you in your efforts in such directions.

As I write to you I would like to tell you again how deeply I appreciated your published comments and all your unseen work around the release of the four jet pilots. I appreciated it of course as of an invaluable assistance in rendering justice to this organization, which I, in a case like this one, could not do without putting myself in the picture in what I would consider to be a very bad style. Therefore, we have to rely on those who like you speak with inside knowledge, frankness and generosity. However, my appreciation was also a personal one, based on the fact that what you said reflected a personal confidence which to me is invaluable. I

His Excellency  
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.  
United States Mission to the United Nations  
2 Park Avenue  
New York City, N.Y.

hope that I have deserved it, and I hope to be able to preserve it. In that spirit I would be happy to see our contacts getting less and less professional and more and more personal, as that certainly would help to build up such a mutual understanding as I feel to be possible on the basis of all that we share of hopes and ideals.

I am doubtful about the possibilities to see much of you in San Francisco, but I hope for at least some good opportunities. Sorry that, as things turn out, we will not have an opportunity to hear you in the official meetings.

29 June 1955

Dear Cabot,

You have probably seen the articles by Parks and Fischer which have been published by U.S. News & World Report and by Life in their issues of respectively 24 and 27 June. In those articles the authors give accounts of their time as prisoners in China which for various reasons give me great concern.

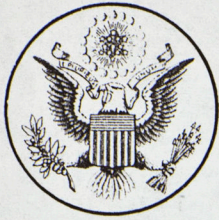
Already from a humanitarian point of view I find it difficult to understand how it has been found possible to give descriptions of conditions which necessarily will bring those on the Chinese side who may have tried, or may try, to help the prisoners, in a most dangerous situation. However - and what is more important from our point of view - these same stories have direct implications for the prisoners remaining in China as they provide reasons for the Chinese for stricter control and for new complaints, in both cases with unforeseeable consequences.

Maybe that the whole situation is such - and in fact for months has been such - that the outcome will be determined independently of such factors as those introduced by the two articles, but we cannot be certain, and it seems extremely imprudent to add any excuses for the Chinese if they want to delay further the implementation of what they have said to be their decision.

I guess that the articles must somehow have been cleared with the authorities in Washington. That is the reason why I write to you as I feel that you may wish to draw attention to the most serious aspects of publicity of this type. In the MacKenzie case the Canadian Government put his story under an embargo for several months. I think that a similar policy should have been pursued here.

His Excellency  
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge  
Permanent Representative of the United States  
of America to the United Nations  
2 Park Avenue  
New York City, N.Y.

It is tragic how in this story all the time - and often quite unnecessarily - difficulties have piled up in a way entirely outside the control of the United Nations. No doubt we will finally succeed, but how much time has been lost?



THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

Two Park Avenue,  
New York 16, New York,  
June 30, 1955.

Dear Dag:

This acknowledges yours of June 29, which  
I have just seen on returning to the office.

It certainly is unfortunate if these  
stories should make it more difficult for the  
other prisoners to be released.

I will certainly call the attention of  
the State Department to what you say and hope  
we can prevent recurrences.

Kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.".

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

His Excellency  
Dag Hammarskjold,  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations,  
United Nations, New York.

PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

1 July 1955

Dear Cabot,

On 23 June my office forwarded to the United States Mission copy of a letter dated 19 June from a Dr. Cheng, Lin-sheng, who claims that he is one of the Chinese students who has not yet received an exit permit from the Immigration authorities of the United States. A copy of Dr. Cheng's letter is enclosed for your convenience.

I must draw your personal attention to this case. If Dr. Cheng's statements are correct, the handling of his application would seem to contradict the assurances I have received from the United States, and which I have used in public statements.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjold

His Excellency,  
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.,  
Permanent Representative of the United States  
of America to the United Nations,  
2 Park Avenue,  
New York 16, N.Y.

LM/pc



THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

*Seen -  
Aurely H.*

Two Park Avenue,  
New York, New York,  
August 3, 1955.

Dear Andy:

Thank you for your letter of August 1, 1955,  
with which you enclosed Chou En-lai's message for  
the Secretary-General.

I believe you know how much President Eisenhower  
appreciates the untiring efforts made by Dag to release  
the fliers. I hope that if you are talking to him  
before his return to the United States you will again  
express his and my deep appreciation for all his work  
leading to their release.

Sincerely yours,

*H. C. Lodge, Jr.*

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

The Honorable  
Andrew W. Cordier,  
Executive Assistant  
to the Secretary-General,  
United Nations.

14 August 1955

Dear Cabot,

As I promised you at your pleasant luncheon the other day  
I have dictated a memorandum on my contacts with Ambassador  
..... Wang Ping-nan in Geneva. In enclose a copy of that memorandum  
and of the letter from Mr. Chou En-lai which it explains.

With kind regards,

His Excellency  
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.  
United States Mission to the United Nations  
2 Park Avenue  
New York City, N.Y.