

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

HS L 179:82a



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Dag Hammarskjöld's sand.

Peking story

1 August 1955

Cable to Cabot Lodge (Peru. Repr. of U.S. to the O.N.)
from Andrew W. Cordier (Exec. Assist. to the
Sec. Gen.)

1
AUGUST 1955

Return 457.

DEAR CABOT,

I HAVE JUST TALKED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WHO IS IN SWEDEN, AND HE HAS ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT TO YOU INFORMALLY THE MESSAGE THAT WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN PEIPING BY CHOU EN-LAI AT ONE OCLOCK TODAY (PEIPING TIME). THIS WAS NINE HOURS BEFORE THE PEIPING ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RELEASE OF THE FLIERS AT TEN OCLOCK TONIGHT (PEIPING TIME). THE MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

PRIMO. THANKS CABLE FROM GENEVA

SECUNDO. CHINESE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO RELEASE IMPRISONED AMERICAN FLIERS. THEIR RELEASE FROM SERVING FULL TERM TAKES PLACE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIP WITH HAMMARSKJOLD AND HAS NO CONNEXION WITH THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. CHOU EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HAMMARSKJOLD WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THIS POINT.

TERTIO. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE CONTACTS ESTABLISHED WITH HAMMARSKJOLD WILL CONTINUE.

QUARTO. CHOU SENDS HIS BEST WISHES ON THE OCCASION OF HAMMARSKJOLDS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY.

QUINTO. MESSAGE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN PEIPING TEN OCKLOCK THIS EVENING. THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS WILL TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS FEASIBLE.

I MIGHT ADD, ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS NOT REQUESTED IT, THE SWEDISH AMBASSADORS PERSONAL COMMENT THAT THE CONTENT AND CORDIAL WORDING OF THE MESSAGE PROVE THAT CHOU CONSIDERS THAT THE OUTCOME CAN BE ENTIRELY CREDITED TO HAMMARSKJOLDS PERSONAL ENDEAVOURS.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNOUNCED AT STOCKHOLM THAT HE HAD RECEIVED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION VIA THE SWDISH AMBASSADOR OF THE RELEASE OF THE ELEVEN FLIERS.

I SHOWED JERRY AND JIM A COOY OF THIS CABLE AT LUCH TODAY IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT.

I AM SURE THAT ALL OF US ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE HAPPY ENDING.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

ANDREW W. CORDIER

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL