

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

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Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

Peking story

9 Sept. 1955

General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General

(Complaint of Detention and Imprisonment of U.N. Military
Personnel in Violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement)



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
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A/2954
9 September 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMPLAINT OF DETENTION AND IMPRISONMENT OF UNITED NATIONS MILITARY
PERSONNEL IN VIOLATION OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 906 (IX) of 10 December 1954, requested the Secretary-General to seek the release, in accordance with the Korean Armistice Agreement, of eleven United Nations Command personnel and all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command^{1/} still detained. It further requested the Secretary-General to make, by the means most appropriate in his judgment, continuing and unremitting efforts to this end and to report progress to all Members on or before 31 December 1954.

2. On 31 December 1954,^{2/} I submitted a report informing Members that, following an exchange of communications with the Prime Minister of the State Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and a meeting in Stockholm with General Keng Piao, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, arrangements were made for the Secretary-General to visit Peking.

3. As stated in my annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization,^{3/} my visit to Peking was made necessary because of the need to establish a direct contact with the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, since this Government was not represented in any organs of the

^{1/} In the debate on this resolution attention was drawn to four jet pilots, serving under the United Nations Command, who were known to be detained in China.

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 72, document A/2891.

^{3/} Ibid., Tenth Session, Supplement No. 1, document A/2911.

United Nations. The visit, aimed primarily at clarifying the substantive and legal aspects of the matter, established this direct contact on a personal basis. It thus provided possibilities to pursue the discussion concerning the problem raised by the detention of the United Nations personnel referred to in the General Assembly resolution.

4. After my return from Peking I continued, within the framework of the contact thus established, an exchange of views with Mr. Chou En-lai, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The contact was maintained mainly through a series of communications transmitted by the Swedish Embassy in Peking. I received valuable assistance also from representatives of the Governments of other Member States.

5. A renewed personal contact with a representative of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Keng Piao, was made by me in Stockholm on 23 April 1955.

6. By a letter to me, given to the Swedish Ambassador in Peking in the early afternoon of 29 May 1955 (New York time), Mr. Chou En-lai announced that an investigation of the cases of four detained fliers had been completed and that it had been decided that they should be deported immediately from the territory of the People's Republic of China. The four men arrived in Hong Kong on 31 May 1955.

7. By an oral message to me, given to the Swedish Ambassador in Peking at 1 o'clock in the morning, 1 August 1955 (New York time), and transmitted by him, Mr. Chou En-lai announced that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China had decided to release as soon as feasible the eleven American fliers who had been detained and imprisoned, and that an announcement to that effect would be made in Peking at 10 a.m. on 1 August 1955 (New York time). The eleven men arrived in Hong Kong on 4 August 1955.

8. Mr. Chou En-lai has expressed his hope that the contact established will be continued. In reply I have stated that this hope is shared by me.

CAUTION--ADVANCE RELEASE
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9 September 1955

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MILITARY PERSONNEL IN VIOLATION OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 906 (IX) of 10 December 1954, requested the Secretary-General to seek the release, in accordance with the Korean Armistice Agreement, of eleven United Nations Command personnel and all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command ^{1/}still detained. It further requested the Secretary-General to make, by the means most appropriate in his judgment, continuing and unremitting efforts to this end and to report progress to all Members on or before 31 December 1954.

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^{1/} In the debate on this resolution attention was drawn to four jet pilots, serving under the United Nations Command, who were known to be detained in China.

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 72, document A/2891.

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COMPLAINT OF DETENTION AND IMPRISONMENT OF UNITED NATIONS
MILITARY PERSONNEL IN VIOLATION OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE
AGREEMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

(1) The General Assembly, by resolution 906 (IX) of 10 December 1954, requested the Secretary-General, in the name of the United Nations, to seek the release, in accordance with the Korean Armistice Agreement, of eleven United Nations Command personnel who had been detained and imprisoned, and all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command still detained. It further requested the Secretary-General to make, by the means most appropriate in his judgment, continuing and unremitting efforts to this end and to report progress to all Members on or before 31 December 1954.

(2) On 31 December 1954^{1/}, I submitted a report informing Members that, following an exchange of communications with the Prime Minister of the State Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and a meeting in Stockholm with General Keng Piao, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, arrangements had been made for the Secretary-General to visit Peking.

(3) As stated in my annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization,^{2/} my visit to Peking was made necessary because of the need to establish a direct contact with the ^{Central People's} Government of the People's Republic of China, since this Government was not represented in any of the organs of the

^{1/} A/2891.

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United Nations. The visit, aimed primarily at clarifying the substantive and legal aspects of the matter, established this contact on a personal basis.

(4) After my return from Peking I have, within the framework of the contact thus established, continued an exchange of views with Mr. Chou En-lai, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The contact has been maintained mainly through a series of communications transmitted by the Swedish Embassy in Peking. I have received valuable assistance also from representatives of the Governments of other Member States.

(5) A renewed personal contact with a representative of the ^{Central People's} Government of the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Keng Piao, was made by me in Stockholm on 23 April 1955. Later I have, on several occasions, met with other representatives of that Government.

(6) By a letter to me, given to the Swedish Ambassador in Peking in the early afternoon of 29 May 1955 (New York time), Mr. Chou En-lai announced that an investigation of the cases of four detained fliers had been completed and that it had been decided that they should be deported immediately from the territory of the People's Republic of China. The four men arrived in Hong Kong on 31 May 1955.

(7) By an oral message to me, given to the Swedish Ambassador in Peking at 1 o'clock in the morning, 1 August 1955 (New York time) and transmitted by him, Mr. Chou En-lai announced that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China had decided to release as soon

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The eleven men arrived in Hong Kong on 4 August 1955.

(8) Mr. Chou En-lai has expressed his hope that the contact established will be continued. In reply I have stated that this hope is shared by me.

D R A F T

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(Fliers' Issue)

(1) The General Assembly by resolution..... 1954 decided to request the Secretary-General..... and instructed him to report.....

(2) On 31 December 1954 I submitted a report informing the Members of the United Nations that.....

(3) As stated in my ²Annual Report on the Work of the Organization to the General Assembly, my visit to Peking was made necessary because of the need to establish a direct contact with the Government of the People's Republic of China, since this Government was not represented in any of the organs of the United Nations. The visit, aimed primarily at clarifying the substantive and legal aspects of the matter, established this contact on a personal basis.

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