

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

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Dag Hammarskjöld's samfund.

Peking story

22 October 1955

Commentary by Observer on the distortion on facts
about the American airman issue.

(People's Daily, Peking)

"NO DISTORTION OF FACTS PERMITTED" SAYS OBSERVER

PEKING, Oct. 22 - Today's P e o p l e ' s D a i l y carries a commentary by Observer on the distortion of facts about the American airmen issue. The commentary reads:

In his October 10 speech, the U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles distorted many facts about the issue of the American Airmen.

This calls to mind the special report issued on September 12 by Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on his contacts with the Government of the People's Republic of China. This special report in many respects is not all-embracing, nor very objective, in particular, as it takes the stand of the majority manipulated in the United Nations and links the issue of American airmen who violated Chinese law with the illegal resolution the United Nations adopted at its ninth session on December 10, 1954. Mr. Hammarskjöld made no mention in his special report of the position which the Chinese Government repeatedly explained to him.

Alongside the report, Mr. Hammarskjöld simply issued "background information" which says: "At the Peking talks and all through the subsequent contacts the attitude as to the facts to which the People's Republic of China had previously given publicity on various occasions, was constantly maintained by them. Mr. Chou En-lai stated that the release of the four and the 11 airmen was an action taken by the Chinese Government on its own initiative, based on its sovereign rights and unconnected with the General Assembly resolution, in line with Chinese policy and legal procedures and inspired by a wish to ease tensions."

Mr. Hammarskjöld's special report has become an official document of the United Nations, but the "background information" he issued was suppressed by the press of the Western countries. It is this unjust situation that has provided Dulles with the opportunity to distort facts and play up so-called moral pressure by the United Nations.

But the real state of affairs cannot be suppressed, nor does it permit any distortion.

It is an established and undeniable fact that John Knox Arnold and 10 other American spies as well as the two American spies John Thomas Downey and Richard George Fecteau intruded into China to carry out subversive activities. To convict American spies captured in Chinese territory is a matter entirely within China's sovereignty and an internal affair with which the United Nations, under its Charter, has no right to interfere.

® Instead of condemning the U.S. for sending spies into China for subversive activities in violation of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1954, adopted an illegal resolution which slandered China's conviction of the 11 American spies as a violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

This can only damage greatly the moral position of the United Nations in the eyes of the world. But it can in no way shake China's just stand to exercise its sovereign right to convict the American spies.

The Chinese Government is firmly opposed to this illegal resolution both in form and content, as a whole or in part.

As for Premier Chou En-lai's expression of welcome, on behalf of the Chinese Government, on December 17, 1954, for Mr. Hammarskjold's visit to China, it was to welcome him in his capacity as United Nations Secretary-General, to discuss with the Chinese Government various questions relating to peace and easing of international tension, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. This has nothing to do with the illegal resolution of the United Nations.

While he was in Peking for talks with the Chinese Government, Mr. Hammarskjold also first made clear the basis of his contact with the Chinese Government. He stated that the United Nations secretary-general "acts under his constitutional responsibility for the general purposes set out in the Charter," and in acting towards this aim, "it is not, and can never be permitted to be, on behalf of any one nation, group of nations or even majority of member nations as registered by a vote in the General Assembly!" Mr. Hammarskjold further stressed that the legal basis of his coming to Peking for talks was only the United Nations Charter, not the condemnation of the Chinese Government contained in the United Nations General Assembly resolution, and therefore he had not forwarded this resolution to the Chinese Government for reference. Finally, Mr. Hammarskjold declared that "we should in no way compete with the autonomous procedure of the Chinese courts of law, nor does it mean that we for a moment have questioned or question your sovereign right to convict."

Clearly, there was a common understanding between the Chinese Government and Mr. Hammarskjold of the basis of their contact. If Mr. Hammarskjold had come at that time to contact the Chinese Government in accordance with the will of the U.S. Government, and for the purpose of exercising pressure on the Chinese Government, then it can be definitely said that contact would never have been established, to say nothing of its being continued.

Although the Chinese Government firmly opposes the illegal U.N. resolution, it did not on this account refuse to negotiate with Mr. Hammarskjold on the American spy cases and on problems related to them. On the contrary, the Chinese Government considered it necessary to call Mr. Hammarskjold's attention to the facts about American spy activities against China and the basic facts about the two spy cases, one involving John Knox Arnold and 10 other American spies and the other involving John Thomas Downey and Richard George Fecteau. This was done to uphold the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, and to enable Mr. Hammarskjold to have in his possession not only the one-sided and false information provided by the U.S.

The Chinese Government pointed out that from July, 1950, the U.S. had carried out many spy activities against China by means of air intrusions into China's territory and airdropping of special agents. The two cases under discussion were only two striking examples. There is complete evidence and there are eye-witnesses to prove that though Arnold and Downey and the 11 others nominally belonged to forces under the U.N. Command, they were actually not carrying out U.N. Command operational missions in Korea, but taking the advantage of the Korean war to intrude into China to carry out spy activities. Therefore, these 13 American spies captured within China's territory were not prisoners of the Korean war at all, but criminals who violated China's sovereignty and carried out subversive activities against China.

If the Korean war prisoner issue is to be considered, then, it is the U.S. and U.N. Command side itself that has violated the Korean Armistice Agreement. The U.S. Government connived with the Syngman Rhee clique openly to wreck the agreement on the repatriation of war prisoners by forcibly detaining over 27,000 Korean and Chinese captured personnel in June, 1953. In January, 1954, the U.N. Command abducted over 21,000 Korean and Chinese captured personnel and impressed them into Syngman Rhee or Chiang Kai-shek forces in disregard of the decision of the Neutral Nation's Repatriation Commission. These cases are unsettled up to now. The people of China and Korea will never drop the issue so long as the U.S. and the U.N. Command side fails to account for them.

The espionage activities conducted by the U.S. against China have aroused great indignation among the Chinese people. The Chinese Government told Mr. Hammarskjold that to relax the tense relations between China and the U. S. it was willing to consider measures to reduce the sentences of convicted American fliers and release them in advance in accordance with China's consistent lenient policy and its legal procedures.

After the visit of Mr. V.K.Krishna Menon of India to Peking in May this year for an exchange of opinions with the Chinese Government on the international situation, the Chinese Government on May 31 released Harold E. Fischer and three other American fliers guilty of intruding into Chinese territorial air, as an active contribution towards lessening international tension.

Prior to the ambassadorial talks between China and the U.S. on August 1 this year, the Chinese Government released John Knox Arnold and 10 other American fliers guilty of espionage, so as to create a favourable atmosphere for the ambassadorial talks between the two countries.

The Chinese Government emphatically and repeatedly pointed out to Mr. Hammarskjold that it had adopted these measures on its own initiative in accordance with its sovereign rights, and that there was no connection whatever with either the illegal resolution of the United Nations General Assembly or with any report to the assembly. In fact, any attempt to force the Chinese Government to give up its sovereign rights by pressure has proved, and will prove futile.

The way in which the Chinese Government has dealt with the cases of the American fliers guilty of crimes demonstrates the consistent attitude adopted by China in international affairs in the past six years. This attitude is a very clear and simple one, that is, if any one is friendly to her, China will reciprocate with greater friendliness; if any one wants to enter into negotiations with her, China will prove herself to be most reasonable; however, if any one attempts to bully and invade her, China will surely resist and resist to the very end.

C H I N A

COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED

Oct. 24, 1955

DULLES DISTORTS FACTS ON U.S. AIRMEN

Peking, NCNA, in English Morse to Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America, Oct. 22, 1955, 0907 GMT--W

(Text)

Peking, Oct. 22--Today's PEOPLE'S DAILY carries a commentary by Observer on the distortion of facts about the American airmen issue. The commentary reads:

In his Oct. 10 speech, the U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles distorted many facts about the issue of the American airmen. This calls to mind the special report issued on Sept. 12 by Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary General of the United Nations, on his contacts with the Government of the People's Republic of China. This special report in many respects is not all-embracing nor very objective, in particular as it takes the stand of the majority manipulated in the United Nations and links the issue of American airmen who violated Chinese law with the illegal resolution of the United Nations, adopted in its 9th session on Dec. 10, 1954. Mr. Hammarskjold made no mention in his special report of the position which the Chinese Government repeatedly explained to him.

Alongside the report, Mr. Hammarskjold simply issued "background information" which says: "At the Peking talks and all through the subsequent contacts, the attitude as to the facts, to which the People's Republic of China had previously given publicity on various occasions, was constantly maintained by them. Mr. Chou En-lai stated that the release of the 4 and the 11 airmen was an action taken by the Chinese Government on its own initiative, based on its sovereign rights and unconnected with the General Assembly resolution, in line with Chinese policy and legal procedures and inspired by a wish to ease tension."

Mr. Hammarskjold's special report has become an official document of the United Nations, but the "background information" issued was suppressed by the press of the Western countries. It is this unjust situation that has provided Dulles with the opportunity to distort facts and play up so-called moral pressure by the United Nations.

But the real state of affairs cannot be suppressed, nor does it permit any distortion. It is an established and undeniable fact that John Knox Arnold and 10 other American spies, as well as the 2 American spies John Thomas Downey and Richard George Fecteau, intruded into China to carry out subversive activities. To convict American spies captured in Chinese territory is a matter entirely within China's sovereignty, and an internal affair with which the United Nations, under its Charter, has no right to interfere.

CHINA: COMMUNIST
Oct. 24, 1955

Instead of condemning the United States for sending spies into China for subversive activities in violation of the U.N. Charter, the U.N. General Assembly, on Dec. 10, 1954, adopted an illegal resolution which slandered China's conviction of the 11 American spies as a violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

This can only damage greatly the moral position of the United Nations in the eyes of the world. But it can in no way shake China's just stand to exercise its sovereign right to convict the American spies. The Chinese Government is firmly opposed to this illegal resolution both in form and content, as a whole or in part.

As for Premier Chou En-lai's expression of welcome, on behalf of the Chinese Government, on Dec. 17, 1954, for Mr. Hammarskjold's visit to China was to welcome him in his capacity as U.N. Secretary General, to discuss with the Chinese Government various questions relating to peace and easing of international tension, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. This has nothing to do with the illegal resolution of the United Nations.

While he was in Peking for talks with the Chinese Government, Mr. Hammarskjold also first made clear the basis of his contact with the Chinese Government. He stated that the U.N. Secretary General "acts under his constitutional responsibility for the general purposes set out in the Charter," and in acting towards this aim, "it is not, and can never be permitted to be, on behalf of any one nation, group of nations, or even majority of member nations as registered by a vote in the General Assembly."

Mr. Hammarskjold further stressed that the legal basis of his coming to Peking for talks was only the U.N. Charter, not the condemnation of the Chinese Government contained in the UNGA resolution, and therefore he had not forwarded this resolution to the Chinese Government for reference. Finally, Mr. Hammarskjold declared that "we should in no way compete with the autonomous procedure of the Chinese courts of law, nor does it mean that we for a moment have questioned or question your sovereign right to convict."

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Oct. 24, 1955

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If the Korean War prisoner issue is to be considered, then, it is the U.S. and U.N. Command side itself that has violated the Korean Armistice Agreement. The U.S. Government connived with the Syngman Rhee clique openly to wreck the agreement on the repatriation of war prisoners by forcibly detaining over 27,000 Korean and Chinese captured personnel in June, 1953. In January, 1954, the U.N. Command abducted over 21,000 Korean and Chinese captured personnel and impressed them into Syngman Rhee or Chiang Kai-shek forces in disregard of the decision of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. These cases are unsettled up to now. The people of China and Korea will never drop the issue so long as the U.S. and the U.N. Command side fails to account for them.

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GENEVA SPIRIT RELAXES WORLD TENSION

Peking, Chinese Home Service in Mandarin, Oct. 22, 1955, 1230 GMT--W

(Text)

All those who are interested in the world situation are paying close attention to the 10th U.N. General Assembly currently in session in New York, and the forthcoming Four-Power Foreign Ministers Conference at Geneva. All peace-loving people eagerly hope for further relaxation of international tension through these two important meetings.

As we all know, the Geneva spirit, which was brought about by the Four-Power Summit Conference held in Geneva 3 months ago, has already had great effect upon the relaxation of international tension.

The peace-loving nations have made positive efforts to protect and implement the Geneva spirit. The Soviet Union and the East European People's Democracies have announced the reduction of their respective armed forces. The Soviet Union also has established diplomatic relations with the German Federal Republic. This is conducive to mutual understanding and trust between these two countries.

Every effort of the peace-loving nations has been welcomed by unbiased public opinion. However, people cannot help but notice that, since the Geneva Summit Conference, the utterances of some newspapers and authoritative personages in the United States have been entirely at variance with the Geneva spirit.

Recently, in the United States, noisy voices demanding reevaluation of the Geneva Conference have been heard. Some commentators in the United States even described the fruits of the Geneva Conference as catastrophes. Some publicly stated that the Cold War will continue, and that the Geneva spirit is finished.

Particularly worthy of attention is the Oct. 10 speech of U.S. Secretary of State Dulles at the annual meeting of the American Legion. In that speech he stressed (differences?) and (hostilities?), indicated the unwillingness of the United States to reduce its armed forces, advocated the establishment of military blocs, and proposed the overthrow of the (Governments?) chosen by the People's Democracies. This speech by Dulles naturally arouses suspicion that he intends to abandon the Geneva spirit.