

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

*HS L 179:82a*



Dag Hammarskjöld's sand.

Peking story - 1955

23 Oct.

Press clipping from N.Y. Times

N.Y. Times, Sunday, 23 October 1955

## RED CHINA DEFENDS HOLDING U. S. FLIERS

TOKYO, Oct. 22 (AP)—Communist China charged the United States today with repeated espionage. Peiping asserted that the United Nations Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold, had recognized Red China's right to sentence intruding airmen, and outlined its attitude toward world affairs.

A Peiping broadcast, replying to Secretary of State Dulles' Oct. 10 speech to the American Legion, at Miami, Fla., said there was "iron-clad evidence" that eleven captured United States airmen accompanied by two United States civilians "intruded into China to carry out subversive activities."

Peiping named the group as the B-19 crew, led by Col. John Knox Arnold and civilians John Downey of New Britain, Conn., and Richard George Fecteau of Lynn, Mass. The airmen were released Aug. 1. Messrs. Downey and Fecteau are still held.

The Communist radio took exception to Mr. Dulles' branding of the airmen's sentencing as "a violation of the Korean armistice and \* \* \* a grave provocation."

"It is entirely China's sovereign right and internal affair to sentence American spies within her own territory," Peiping said.

Regarding Mr. Hammarskjold's trip to China last December to try to ease international tension, Peiping said that after hearing Communist China's views, "finally, he stated \* \* \* he never doubted the sovereign right of China in passing the sentences."