

INFORMATION REPORT

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China/Ceylon/Pakistan

Subject: Newspaper Readers' Responses to Students' Plans to Free Chinese-held US Prisoners

13 May 59

18 - 22 Apr 59

Apr 59

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1.

"As soon as I read the sad story narrated in your correspondence appeared in the Morning News - one of the English daily papers in our territory, I felt a hard dry knot of pain in my heart for a moment. What you tell in your letter is more grave than dust under a table. This makes one think.

"I take this opportunity of expressing a deep sense of sympathy for the family members of John F Downey, Hugh F Redmond, Jr, Richard C Pecteau, Robert E McCann and Bishop James Walsh, and would earnestly appeal to every Pakistani citizen irrespective of cast, creed and colour to come forward and to pray for the release of these innocent and high-toned gentlemen.

"It is true that the present day activities of the Government of Red China whose policy may be rated as shrewd but not remarkably intelligent, are aimed at creating a climate of hate and hostility, and deliberately being intended to outrage the good feeling of free world. Recent clash between Tibetan Rebels and Chinese Troops, you know, is also another cause of injuring the feeling of peace-loving people. Tibetan Rebels and Chinese Troops are engaged in a serious clash near Nanger-Tse-Duong, the Rebels western-most stronghold, according to eye witness report reaching here today. I am surely disappointed at the conduct of Red China.

"I need sufficient information about the prisoners in Red China, so as to enable me to appeal to our citizens to pray for their release, and look forward to the pleasure of

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hearing from you in this connection very soon. I would really appreciate your prompt reply and now bid you good-by gally."

2.

"I have very carefully read your very carefully worded letter recently published in the Morning News. I deeply appreciate the patriotic sentiment expressed therein. I have, however, looked at the issue from a different stand-point, although I had had a great respect for your standpoint during my school days some ten years ago. In the imprisonment of the Americans by Red China I find the Fundamental Rights of men crying and crawling in the dusts. It is nothing new in the history of a Communist country; it is an unpleasant episode to the recorded annals of communism.

"It shocks my conscience that some men, progeny of Adam, would undergo torture not recognized by law; I mean civilized law not the iron rule of the totalatarian state. True it is that the prisoners are American but the greater truth which pinches me from within is that they are men like me or to be more precise, like their oppressors. How I wish I could release them! May Allah help solve their problem.

"Did you ever think of the poor "muslims" who are being recently killed in India, the land of religious fanaticism? So please pray for them."

3. A letter dated

"Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as a student of Qaid-e-Azam College, Dacca, East Pakistan.

"I have gone through your letter published in the daily Morning News dated 18 Apr 59, and was filled with extreme sorrow to hear the devilish activities of Red China against your country. My deepest sympathy and fullest co-operation goes to you and your country people alike.

"I also like to inform you about our country, which I think, may not be hidden from you.

"Our country is situated in Asia and you can see my native city on 90° 23'E Longitude and 23° 45'N Latitude. We were slaves under the British before attainment of independence, 14 Aug 47. In our struggle for freedom, we came out as an independent Nation on the 14th day of August, 1947, with a view to establishing justice and peace all over the World. But the greatest difficulties laying in our way to unite the World, is that our neighbouring country known as Bharat (India) has already exploited Kashmir. But the people of Kashmir never like to accept the imperialism of Bharat. The Kashmiries are always in favour of a peaceful settlement and a plebiscite to decide their fate.

"It is also necessary for me to let you know about Kashmir. About 95% of the population of Kashmir are Muslims, their culture, heritage and religion are the same as ours.

Geographically and from the point of view of justice it is a part and parcel of Pakistan. So the people of Kashmir like to link with Pakistan. But the Bharati troops are crushing the Kashmiries and perpetuating all sorts of tyranny over them.

"Therefore, you are requested to please let your brethren know the aggression of the 'Bharaties' in Kashmir."

"This letter will be a surprise to you. So let me explain matters to you. I read your letter about Communists to the Times of Ceylon and was deeply moved by it. Hence this letter. Now let me introduce myself.

"I am a boy named Beneventura Lena and am 18 years old. I am very much interested in international affairs and a firm anti-Marxist. Marxism is threatening us here in Ceylon too and our present government, (the MEP government) consists of all kinds of elements and is a coalition government. One of the chief and active parties in the government is the Marxist party. So you can imagine the attitude of the present government to Marxism. Marxist literature is flooding our country and the Marxist threat to Ceylon is very grave indeed. I do not think outsiders and you in the US ever thought that the situation is so grave in Ceylon.

"Now coming to the substance of your letter it is not surprising that they imprison people without the semblance of any trial because for them there is no "Basic rights of Humanity," "No Individual freedom" etc. For them (the Commies) the "end justifies the means." The end is the Socialistic Revolution and the dictatorship of the Proletariat. Under their headings they justify all atrocities they commit on this earth. At present we are witnessing the suppression of the Tibetan revolt for which there has been considerable amount of opposition among the Buddhists in Ceylon. There had been few meetings here in protest against the Chinese act in Tibet and a few more are planned.

"Well, I frankly do not know who the persons you referred to in your letter are. Please excuse my ignorance. But let me make a guess. Are they some of the 11 (I hope the number is correct) American airmen held by Red China? I hope you will enlighten me on that point.

"I am sure the people of the US and the free world in general have lost a great leader in Mr Dulles. I do hope he will recover soon and that his successor Mr Herder sic will prove himself a worthy successor.

"I like the American way of life a lot and I like Americans in general. Their magnanimous sic generosity and the equally great ingratitude of the Asians completely baffles me. I was educated for six years in an American College, St Michael's College, Batticaloa. You may have



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heard about it there. At present I am studying in Colombo and since I will be leaving to Colombo on the 25th please address your letter to my college address which I give below. I am anxious to hear from you soon. Wishing you all luck."

- end -

