

FOREIGN MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI'S
REPLY TO LESTER B. PEARSON

December 14, 1952

JOINT STATEMENT OF CHINA'S
DEMOCRATIC PARTIES OPPOSING
THE ILLEGAL RESOLUTION ADOPTED
BY THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE KOREAN QUESTION

December 16, 1952

FOREIGN MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI'S
CABLE OF PROTEST TO LESTER B.
PEARSON ON THE PONGAM
MASSACRE

December 21, 1952

Supplement to *PEOPLE'S CHINA*

January 1, 1953

FOREIGN MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI'S REPLY TO LESTER B. PEARSON

On December 5, 1952, Lester B. Pearson, President of the U.N. General Assembly, cabled Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, communicating the text of the resolution on the Korean question adopted on December 3, 1952, by the seventh session of the General Assembly. On December 14, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai replied to Lester B. Pearson. We print below the full text of the reply.

*Mr. Lester B. Pearson,
President of the General Assembly of the United
Nations,
New York, N. Y.,
United States of America:*

I have received your cable of December 5, 1952, which communicated the text of the resolution based on the draft resolution of the Indian Delegation and adopted on December 3, 1952, by the seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, under the item of its agenda entitled "Korea: Reports of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea." I am hereby authorised to make the following reply on behalf of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations, after illegally adopting in February, 1951, the shameful and calumnious resolution slandering China as an aggressor, has now, in the absence of the representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Korean Democratic People's Republic, discussed the Korean question and adopted a resolution supporting the United States Government's position of forcibly retaining in captivity prisoners of war in contravention of international conventions, and facilitating its continuation and expansion of the war now raging in Korea. Such an action is clearly illegal and void and is firmly opposed by the Chinese people.

2. This illegal resolution, adopted by the General Assembly and based on the Indian draft resolution, having as its basic content the question of the repatriation of prisoners of war, does not correspond to the description in your cable that it deals with the question of the repatriation of prisoners of war "under the terms of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of the prisoners of war of August 12, 1949, under the well-established principles and practice of international law and under the relevant provisions of the Draft Armistice Agreement." Quite to the contrary, it is entirely based on the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation" or "no forcible repatriation," which is in essence the "principle" of forcibly retaining in captivity prisoners of war, a

principle which the United States side has unjustifiably maintained ever since December 11, 1951, when the Korean armistice negotiations entered into discussion on the prisoner-of-war item on the agenda and which is universally recognised as violating the Geneva Convention and international law. No matter how it claims to be in conformity with the Geneva Convention and international law, this illegal resolution, stripped of its disguise, is actually nothing but a revamped version of the "21-nation proposal" submitted by Mr. Acheson of the United States to the 1st Committee of the General Assembly on October 24, 1952. On this score, official spokesmen of the United States, Britain and other countries have not only repeatedly and openly admitted but also expressed approval of the fact that this illegal resolution "staunchly and firmly establishes the principle of voluntary repatriation." All countries, inside and out of the United Nations, whether they are for or against the Indian draft resolution, consider that this draft resolution supports the "principle of no forcible repatriation" maintained by the United States Government. Even Mr. Krishna Menon, the Indian delegate to the United Nations, who tabled the illegal resolution, himself makes no attempt to hide this. And even you, Mr. Pearson, did you not in your report of December 8 to the Canadian House of Commons on the progress of the General Assembly also frankly admit that "the principle of no forcible repatriation" maintained by the United States still served as the sole basis of negotiation for the United Nations in the Korean armistice negotiations?

Such an illegal resolution based on the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation" or "no forcible repatriation" cannot possibly settle what you describe in your cable as "the sole remaining issue which has not been settled in the course of these armistice negotiations," namely, "the principles and procedures by which the repatriation of prisoners of war can be effected." The fact is that, with regard to this remaining issue, both parties to the Korean armistice negotiations have, in accordance with the principle of the total repatriation of prisoners of war as accepted in international practice and the Geneva Convention, established concrete and scrupulously-detailed measures and procedures in Article 3 of the agreed

Draft Armistice Agreement. Article 3 constitutes not only what you refer to in your cable as the terms acceptable to both sides for bringing the Korean war to an end, but also the terms already accepted by both sides for bringing the Korean war to an end. If the United States had adhered to the Draft Armistice Agreement instead of deliberately inventing the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation" or "no forcible repatriation" as an excuse to obstruct an armistice in Korea, then this "sole remaining issue which has not been settled" would long ago have been satisfactorily settled, and the Korean war, which is a matter of common concern to the people of the whole world, would long ago have been brought to an end. The people of the world know that it is the United States Government which has, by maintaining the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation" or "no forcible repatriation"—in essence the "principle" of forcibly retaining in captivity prisoners of war, violated the terms of the Geneva Convention and the provisions of the Draft Armistice Agreement and broken off the Korean armistice negotiations, hence made it impossible over a long period of time to settle the question of prisoner-of-war repatriation. These criminal violations of the United States are even supported by the General Assembly. This is a situation which the Chinese people absolutely cannot tolerate. The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has always firmly adhered to and upheld the basic principle of the total repatriation of prisoners of war after an armistice is effected, as established in the Geneva Convention, and will continue to do so.

3. The resolution which you forwarded bases itself not only on the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation" or "no forcible repatriation," but also on the hypothesis that there are actually some among the Korean and Chinese captured personnel who "refuse to return home" to rejoin their families and lead a peaceful life. This does not accord in the slightest with human nature; still less does it square with the facts.

The facts are that the United States has long since flagrantly cast aside the provisions of Article 17 and other articles of the Geneva Convention regarding the humane treatment of prisoners of war, and has, in the prisoner-of-war camps under its control, placed large numbers of United States, Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek special agents in responsible posts and has even planted Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek special agents posing as Korean and Chinese prisoners of war, to coerce prisoners of war to make declarations "refusing repatriation" and of "unwillingness to return home," by frequent recourse to so-called "persuasion," "screening," "re-screening," and "interrogation" of the Korean and Chinese prisoners of war—measures effected by such utterly savage and inhuman methods as torture, massacre and mass starvation. Prisoners of war who refused to submit were viciously beaten up by these

special agents. And, while these prisoners of war lay unconscious as a result of their serious injuries, these special agents took advantage of this either to tattoo these prisoners of war with humiliating marks of treason against their motherland contrary to their will, or to dip the fingers of the prisoners of war in blood from their wounds, to forcibly affix their fingerprints to "screening" petitions allegedly expressing "unwillingness to return home." These special agents even stained their own fingers with blood from the wounds of prisoners of war who had been cruelly beaten unconscious to forge fingerprints. All this has, over the past year and more, been conclusively and in every detail corroborated by United States and British news agency despatches; the press of India, Canada, Britain and other participants in the war on the United States side; the admissions of former commandants of the United States prisoner-of-war camps, Brigadier-Generals Colson and Dodd; the accounts of Korean and Chinese prisoners of war who were fortunate enough to have escaped from the death camps; the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and even by the recent statement to the press made by United States Secretary of Defence, Robert Lovett, on December 2.

The United States, sinking to the lowest depths of moral depravity, turns these tattooings and petitions in blood of its own making into a pretext for its noisy claim that "some Korean and Chinese prisoners of war are unwilling to be repatriated." And now, this illegal resolution which you forwarded even sustains this claim, ranting that "the Geneva Convention cannot be construed as authorising a detaining power to employ force to effect the return of individual prisoners of war to their homelands."

In reality, prisoners of war are those combatants of one side who are under the armed control and at the forcible disposal of their enemy and have no freedom. Release and repatriation is a right to which all prisoners of war of both sides are entitled as soon as an armistice comes into effect, that is, they should be freed from the armed control of the enemy and be returned to their own side so that they may regain their freedom and return to their homeland to lead a peaceful life. Since prisoners of war are entitled to such rights, how can there be such a question as "forcible repatriation" or "return to their homelands effected by force"?

The unfounded argument that "a detaining power may not employ force to effect the return of individual prisoners of war to their homelands" cannot hold water. It can find no basis whatever in the Geneva Convention. On the contrary, article after article of the Geneva Convention lays down that the detaining power is charged with the responsibility of speedily releasing and repatriating all prisoners of war after the armistice comes into effect and that it has absolutely no right to use force and special agents to insult and retain in captivity prisoners of war.

It is evident that the adoption of the illegal resolution by the General Assembly aims to divert the indignation and attention of the people of the world from the criminal terrorism, as evidenced in the "screening" of prisoners of war by the United States, to the so-called question of "forcing prisoners of war to return to their homes" or "force shall not be used to effect the return of prisoners of war to their homelands." All of you who have taken this action are indeed "challenging the fundamental humanitarian instincts."

Even while the seventh session of the General Assembly is in session, massacres of Korean and Chinese prisoners of war are continuing, because they resist "screening" and "persuasion," and refuse to express "unwillingness to go home." According to figures revealed by United States and British news agency despatches alone, during the period October 14 to December 4, 1952, as many as 321 Korean and Chinese prisoners of war have been so killed and wounded. An average of six or seven Korean and Chinese prisoners of war thus fell victim every day. When you in the General Assembly adopted this illegal resolution, you pretended as if nothing had happened, shedding crocodile tears and ranting about "humanitarian principles" and "the free will of prisoners of war" to plead for the brutal crimes committed by the United States; you racked your brains to think up all possible schemes to implement the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation" or "no forcible repatriation," which is in essence the United States "principle" of forcibly retaining in captivity the prisoners of war. All just people throughout the world cannot but be startled and stirred to anger at such degenerate actions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

4. The illegal resolution which you forwarded prescribes that the Korean and Chinese prisoners of war, numbering more than 100,000, shall be "released" to a repatriation commission, composed of neutral nations, in a demilitarised zone; that those who are "willing to go home" shall be allowed to return to their homes, and those who are "unwilling to go home" shall be delivered to the repatriation commission and handed over to the United Nations at the end of 120 days for disposal. It is also prescribed that an umpire shall be appointed to the repatriation commission and that if agreement on the appointment of an umpire cannot be reached, this matter should be referred to the General Assembly. The umpire is given a decisive role to play in the repatriation commission. The proposal to give the United Nations the final authority of appointing the umpire and the final authority of disposing of those prisoners of war allegedly "unwilling to go home" is really extremely absurd. Can it be that those delegates who sponsored and adopted the illegal resolution in the United Nations have really forgotten that the United Nations is one of the belligerent parties in the Korean war?

To put it more frankly, having passed through a circuitous course in which resort was made to many deceitful tactics, these provisions actually adopted in full the three proposals put forward at Panmunjom on September 28, 1952, by the United States. Nonetheless, these provisions are couched in terms more sly in order to deceive more easily the people of the world and to facilitate the realisation of the United States Government's scheme to forcibly retain in captivity prisoners of war in violation of international conventions.

As has been stated above, not the slightest credence can be given to the nonsensical allegation that prisoners of war are "unwilling to go home." Furthermore, the question still cannot be settled even if the repatriation commission, composed of neutral nations, is entrusted with the duty of repatriating home all prisoners of war. As has already been said, the United States side has planted among the Korean and Chinese prisoners of war large numbers of Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek special agents posing as Korean and Chinese prisoners of war. These agents frequently intimidate the prisoners of war by taking advantage of the abnormal state of mind prevailing among some of them such as humiliation and apprehension resulting from their having been forcibly tattooed with marks against their motherland and forced to put their fingerprints in blood on petitions refusing repatriation. If these special agents are not separated or isolated from the Korean and Chinese prisoners of war, it will be impossible to proceed successfully with visits and explanations and the chances will still remain whereby those Korean and Chinese prisoners of war who have been tattooed and whose fingerprints have been taken in blood will be coerced into refusing to go home and even to the extent of being led away by these agents. Therefore, in a situation where prisoners of war are under the jurisdiction of the repatriation commission, it will be absolutely impossible to separate or isolate these agents from the Korean and Chinese prisoners of war. Only by directly delivering prisoners of war to their own side for protection can this be accomplished. General Kim Il Sung, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, and General Peng Teh-huai, Commander of the Chinese people's volunteers, in their letter of October 16, 1952, to General Clark of the United States, proposed that all prisoners of war be brought to a demilitarised zone to be handed over directly to and accepted by the other side, and that repatriation be effected after visits and explanations. Taking into account the complicated situation mentioned above, these proposals first of all enable prisoners of war to be released from the armed control of the opposite side, give them the protection of their own side, so that the total repatriation of prisoners of war in accordance with humanitarian principles, international practice, the Geneva Convention and the Draft Armistice Agreement can be assured. If the General Assembly of the United Nations is not

a sounding board for the United States Government, it has no reason whatever to decline this sensible and reasonable proposal of the Korean and Chinese side for the repatriation of prisoners of war.

5. From the above, it can be clearly seen that the illegal resolution which you forwarded is not only unfair but also unreasonable. The illegal resolution is unreasonable because it runs counter to the conscience of man, completely violates humanitarian principles, international practice as well as the provisions of the Geneva Convention and the Draft Armistice Agreement; it is unreasonable because it recognises the "desire" of the prisoners of war to "refuse repatriation," a "desire" created by the United States side by the most brutal methods; it is unreasonable because it insists on the retaining in captivity of tens of thousands of Korean and Chinese prisoners of war as hostages in order to force the Korean and Chinese side to yield to the United States. It is unfair because it deliberately attempts to impose on the Korean and Chinese side the utterly groundless "principle of voluntary repatriation" which the United States has maintained throughout, and because it rejected without any reason the proposal of the Korean and Chinese side for the repatriation of all prisoners of war in adherence to the Geneva Convention and the proposal of the Delegation of the Soviet Union for the immediate and complete cessation of hostilities in Korea prior to the settlement of the question of the repatriation of all prisoners of war.

In view of these facts, I cannot but inform you solemnly that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China considers that such an illegal resolution cannot possibly provide "a just and reasonable basis for an agreement."

On the question of the repatriation of prisoners of war, the Central People's Government considers that the Korean and Chinese side is at once correct and just, fair and reasonable in insisting on the principle of total repatriation, a principle which is in conformity with humanitarian principles and the Geneva Convention. The settlement of the question of the repatriation of prisoners of war in the Korean armistice negotiations must and can only be achieved on the basis of the Geneva Convention. Any illegal principle cannot and should not be allowed to serve as a basis.

Acting on the principles of the Geneva Convention, the Korean and Chinese side has repeatedly declared that as soon as the armistice in Korea comes into effect, both sides should immediately effect the unconditional, speedy and total repatriation of prisoners of war, and, furthermore, is prepared to receive the joint Red Cross teams for visits to the prisoner-of-war camps in order to expedite the return of the prisoners of war of the other side to their homes. It is obvious that the Korean and Chinese side is indeed, to use the phraseology of your cable, willing to make every possible effort to ensure that all prisoners of war

shall return to their homes, and that their speedy return be facilitated. But to accept the illegal resolution forwarded by you which is neither fair nor reasonable would make it impossible to ensure the speedy return of all prisoners of war to their homes. To accept it would be to capitulate before the bestial violence of the United States which tramples on the human rights of the prisoners of war. It would, therefore, be absolutely impossible that an actual cease-fire would result and be effected. Furthermore, if we permit the realisation of the "principle of voluntary repatriation" held by the United States Government and embodied in the illegal resolution forwarded by you, if we permit the ruthless subversion by the United States Government of the principles of international law which safeguard international order and the human rights of prisoners of war, then the sufferings now visited on the Korean and Chinese prisoners of war will be visited tomorrow on the people of other nations who may become prisoners of war; likewise the calamities today endured by Korea and China as victims of aggression will tomorrow befall any other nation in the world.

6. Your cable devoted considerable verbiage to an attempt to show that by adopting this illegal resolution, which has as its basic content the United States "principle of voluntary repatriation" under an Indian cloak, all of you earnestly desire a speedy conclusion to the Korean war. However, this illegal resolution which you forwarded fully demonstrates that it abjectly submits to the brutal will of the United States Government which uses violence to carry through the forcible retaining in captivity of prisoners of war so that the Korean armistice negotiations might be broken off and sabotaged and that the Korean war might be prolonged and expanded. All of you are not doing everything possible to bring the fighting to an end in Korea. You are doing everything possible to induce and coerce some of the nations represented in the General Assembly to endorse jointly the policy of the United States of no armistice, no negotiations, and no peaceful settlement but the prolongation and expansion of the Korean war. At the same time, all of you attempt further to shift the responsibility for the failure to end the war to the Korean and Chinese side. It can be positively stated that this attempt of yours to shift responsibility will be of no avail.

If, as you said in your cable, the General Assembly's "unanimous desire is to bring peace to Korea," then it should insist upon the principle of the total repatriation of prisoners of war as embodied in the Geneva Convention and international law. It should sternly demand that the United States side immediately resume the negotiations at Panmunjom and with the proposal for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question submitted by Mr. Vyshinsky, delegate of the Soviet Union, on the 10th and 24th of November as a basis, bring about the accomplishment of a complete cease-fire on the part of the belligerent parties

in accordance with the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement already agreed upon by both sides as a first step; and then refer for settlement the question of the total repatriation of prisoners of war together with the peaceful settlement of the Korean question to the "Commission for the Peaceful Settlement of the Korean Question," composed of the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, India, Burma, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, the Korean Democratic People's Republic and South Korea. The Commission is of the same nature as the political conference provided for in Article 60 of the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement, which you mentioned in your cable, and its composition is at once the fairest possible and the most reasonable. If such a procedure is followed, an armistice in Korea can be immediately achieved, and the distress of the Korean people as well as the casualties on both sides can be brought to an end. Thus, the General Assembly can indeed speedily "bring peace to Korea."

However, the present session of the General Assembly has already rejected such a fair and reasonable proposal which can really lead to peace. I hereby once again make the following proposal: to realise the fervent desire for peace of the people of the world, to demonstrate the sincerity of the Chinese people for an early restoration of peace in Korea, and to preclude the further use of the prisoner repatriation issue as an obstacle and pretext in the realisation of an armistice in Korea, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China requests that the General Assembly rescind the illegal resolution which you forwarded, call upon the United States Government to resume immediately the negotiations at Panmunjom, and, with the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement as a basis, to bring about the realisation of a

complete armistice as a first step and then refer for settlement the question of the total repatriation of prisoners of war to the above-mentioned "Commission for the Peaceful Settlement of the Korean Question." If the General Assembly agrees to discuss this request, then representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Korean Democratic People's Republic must take part in the discussions. Should the General Assembly reject even such a just request, and still persist in maintaining the illegal resolution which aims at supporting the United States Government in forcibly retaining in captivity prisoners of war in violation of international conventions, then it would further demonstrate that your purpose, far from being the achievement of peace in Korea and the Far East, is nothing but the continuation and expansion of the Korean war so that peace in the Far East and throughout the world can be further disrupted at some future date. This would all the more expose the United Nations as increasingly becoming a tool of the ruling clique of the United States in its preparations for war and for the extension of aggression. All those who support the war policies of the ruling clique of the United States must bear the grave responsibility for the consequences of such action.

7. I request that you distribute the full text of this reply in the General Assembly.

8. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

CHOU EN-LAI

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Central People's Government of
the People's Republic of China

Peking

December 14, 1952

THE JOINT STATEMENT OF CHINA'S DEMOCRATIC PARTIES

We print below the full text of the joint statement issued by China's democratic parties on December 16, 1952, opposing the illegal resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly concerning the Korean question and supporting the proposal of the Chinese Government for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

Without the participation of the delegates of the People's Republic of China and the Korean Democratic People's Republic, the seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly on December 3, 1952, adopted an illegal resolution concerning the Korean question based on the Indian draft resolution. This resolution is a refurbished version of the U.S. Government's blood-thirsty proposition for forcible detention of Korean and Chinese prisoners of war in violation of the Geneva Convention relating to pri-

soners of war. It is aimed at continuing and expanding the Korean war. In his telegram of December 14 replying to Mr. Lester B. Pearson, President of the United Nations General Assembly, Chou En-lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, denounced this preposterous, illegal resolution in the most serious terms. He also put forward the just proposal of the Chinese Government for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question on a fair and

reasonable basis. We hereby pledge wholehearted and unanimous support of the righteous stand and just proposal of the Chinese Government.

The Korean armistice negotiations have been in progress for a year and a half. Owing to the persistent and unceasing efforts of the Korean and Chinese side, a draft Korean armistice agreement was achieved. However, seeking to continue and expand the war of aggression against Korea and maintain international tension to accomplish its scheme of armaments expansion and war preparations and for sabotaging peace, the U.S. Government deliberately invented such unreasonable pretexts as "voluntary repatriation" and "non-forcible repatriation," violating the provisions for the repatriation of prisoners of war already agreed upon by both sides and forcibly retaining large numbers of Korean and Chinese prisoners of war. Furthermore, it is continuing to commit such sanguinary crimes as forcible screening, beating up, tattooing and arbitrary disposal of prisoners of war. The United States Government, which pursues this criminal policy, therefore, bears the entire responsibility for making it impossible till now to end the Korean war and realise the ardent desire of the peoples throughout the world for peace.

Although the illegal resolution, based on the Indian draft resolution, which the United Nations General Assembly adopted, also quotes the Geneva Convention, in essence, it subverts the humanitarian principles of this Convention, and in particular, directly does away with the express provisions of Article 118 of this Convention that after the cessation of hostilities all prisoners of war must be released and repatriated unconditionally. The statement that "no force shall be used to prevent or effect the return of prisoners of war to their homelands" is in fact a hoax to lend support to the U.S. Government's barbarous crime of forcibly retaining large numbers of Korean and Chinese prisoners of war. It is absolutely impossible that such a preposterous resolution could lead to a Korean truce. It seeks merely to provide a pretext for the criminal conspiracy of the U.S. Government to continue and expand the war of aggression against Korea. The entire Chinese people stand resolutely opposed to this.

In June, 1950, the U.S. Government unleashed its war of aggression against the Korean people, and immediately afterwards, it goaded its retinue in the United Nations to take part in this criminal action. In February, 1951, the U.S. Government manoeuvred the United Nations General Assembly into adopting the shameless resolution slandering the People's Republic of China as an "aggressor." Now the United States Government has once again made use of the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the preposterous resolution for the forcible retention of prisoners of war in contravention of the Geneva Convention relating to prisoners of war, attempting to convert the United Nations more and more into a tool of the U.S. Government's aggressive policy. This is absolutely intolerable to the Chinese people and

the people of the world who love peace and uphold justice.

The Chinese people ardently love peace. We want peace for China and peace for Korea. We want lasting peace for the whole world, for the whole of humanity. We have consistently advocated the peaceful settlement of the Korean question on a fair and reasonable basis. In his telegram in reply to Mr Lester B. Pearson, President of the United Nations General Assembly, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai once again put forward on behalf of the Central People's Government the just proposal for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. He demanded that the United Nations General Assembly rescind its illegal resolution of December 3, call upon the U.S. Government to resume immediately the negotiations at Panmunjom, and with the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement as a basis, bring about the realisation of a complete armistice as a first step, and then refer for settlement the question of the total repatriation of prisoners of war to the "Commission for the Peaceful Settlement of the Korean Question" proposed by the Delegation of the Soviet Union. This proposal is the one and only road to the realisation of a Korean armistice and peace. We fully approve and resolutely support this reasonable and just proposal of the Central People's Government. We call on the entire Chinese people to continue to rally in complete unity, to persist in the just struggle to resist American aggression and aid Korea, oppose this preposterous, illegal resolution of the United Nations, expose the U.S. Government's conspiracy to continue and expand the Korean war and strive to the end for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question!

(Signed)

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference;

The Communist Party of China;

The Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang;

The China Democratic League;

The Democratic National Construction Association;

Non-partisan democrats of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference;

The China Association for Promoting Democracy;

The Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party;

The China Chih Kung Tang;

The Chiu San Society;

The Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League;

The China New Democratic Youth League

December 16, 1952

FOREIGN MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI'S CABLE OF PROTEST TO LESTER B. PEARSON ON THE PONGAM MASSACRE

On December 14, 1952, the United States forces in Korea perpetrated a mass murder in the prisoner-of-war camp on Pongam Island killing 87 and wounding 120 captured personnel of the Korean and Chinese side. On December 21, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai cabled a protest to Lester B. Pearson, President of the U.N. General Assembly. We print below the full text of the cable.

*Mr. Lester B. Pearson,
President of the General Assembly of
the United Nations,
New York, U.S.A.*

Immediately following the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations, under the domination of the United States, of the illegal resolution on the Korean question based on the Indian draft resolution, the United States forces again, on December 14, 1952, perpetrated a mass murder in the prisoner-of-war camp on Pongam Island in which 87 captured personnel of the Korean and Chinese side were killed and 120 wounded. Of the toll of prisoners of war killed and wounded in a series of incidents, these are the highest figures which the United States side over a long period of time has been forced to admit.

The mass murder on Pongam Island is not only the extension and further development of the policy of massacring prisoners of war consistently followed by the United States forces, but also the result of the direct encouragement afforded by the adoption of the afore-mentioned illegal resolution by the General Assembly. This incident once more fully proves that the real substance of the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation" or "no forcible repatriation" maintained by the United States is the use of the brutal and inhuman method of mass murder to coerce prisoners of war to express "unwillingness to be repatriated" in order to achieve the United States aim of retaining in captivity prisoners of war.

The people of China express their profoundest indignation at the calculated and savage atrocity of massacring prisoners of war committed by the United States forces. In the name of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, I hereby make a grave protest against such criminal acts

of the United States forces which completely destroy humanitarian principles and fundamentally subvert the Geneva Convention. I further demand that the General Assembly immediately take effective measures to put an end to the savage atrocity of murdering Korean and Chinese captured personnel committed by the United States forces and mete out severe punishment to United States officers and officials who bear full responsibility for this and all past sanguinary incidents of massacre.

In view of the fact that the afore-mentioned illegal resolution adopted by the General Assembly has produced such serious and criminal consequences, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China considers that the General Assembly should accept the proposal which I submitted in my cable of reply to you on December 14, 1952, that is, to rescind the afore-mentioned illegal resolution, call upon the United States Government to resume immediately the armistice negotiations at Panmunjom and, with the agreed Draft Korean Armistice Agreement as a basis, bring about the realisation of a complete armistice, and then refer for settlement the question of total repatriation of prisoners of war to the "Commission for the Peaceful Settlement of the Korean Question" proposed by the Delegation of the Soviet Union. Only thus can incidents of prisoner-of-war massacres be immediately brought to an end and an armistice in Korea be immediately realised.

CHOU EN-LAI

*Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Central People's Government of
the People's Republic of China*

Peking
December 21, 1952