

1954**Freedom to Non-Repatriated Prisoners of War****Citation:**

"Freedom to Non-Repatriated Prisoners of War", 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-379-003, Papers Related to the Korean American Mutual Defense Treaty, Papers Related to Treaty-Making and International Conferences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/119370>

Summary:

This note warns that the communists will try to convince the world that these "freed" prisoners are not really freed and during this processing and resettlement period the world will be watching the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China's actions.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Pow

An important victory for the established principle of political asylum will be achieved on January 23 with the release of prisoners-of-war not desiring repatriation to civilian status and to freedom. It is anticipated that the Communists will make a major attempt through propaganda to persuade the world that the freed prisoners have not obtained real freedom of choice or person for the reason that the establishment of the principle of asylum and its maintenance reduces the Communist world's ability to commit aggression. It is probable therefore that the interest of the world will be centered very much on these free prisoners for a period of time. Consequently the future handling of these persons both in the Republic of Korea and in the Republic of China will be of major importance. The responsibility of the United Nations Command will be ended when the prisoners are able to exercise a free choice regarding their destination and are returned to civilian life. An important responsibility in the eyes of the free world therefore rests on the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China during the period of processing and resettlement of these persons.