

**May 19, 1954**

**Minutes of the Talk between Huan Xiang and  
Humphrey Trevelyan on the Return of Chinese and  
US Nationals to Their Respective Countries (Excerpt)**

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Translated by Yafeng Xia.

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**Summary:**

Trevelyan offered to mediate the issue of Chinese and American expatriates as a private person. Huan Xiang replied by affirming that US nationals were free to leave China while many Chinese were not allowed to leave the US. He declared to have no authority on the mediation request and would consult with related people.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

Chinese

**Contents:**

Original Scan

Translation - English

## 四-1 中、美关于侨民及留学生回国问题的会晤

宦乡与杜维廉关于中美两国侨民  
回国问题的谈话记录\*（节录）

(1954年5月19日)

案卷编号：206-Y0012

(前略。——编者)

## 四、愿居间解决美侨、华侨问题

杜维廉（档案原文译名为“杜威廉”。——编者）：以上我是以英国驻北京代办的身份谈的。现在我愿纯粹以私人身份向您提出一个问题。您知道，有许多美侨在中国不能回美国，同时也有许多华侨在美国不能回中国。为了中国和美国双方的利益，我很愿意居中斡旋，使这问题能够得到一些解决。我要郑重声明，我这只是以纯粹私人的身份提出的。中国如果愿意我居间，当然我是愿意尽力的；如果不愿，当然就算了。

宦乡：关于这个问题，据我所知，中国并没有扣留美侨，使他们不能回国。自从中华人民共和国成立以来，美国侨民愿意申请出境的，只要没有特殊原因（如债务纠纷、犯罪行为、私行越境等），都出了境，其数目每年都是以千计的。相反地，美国却扣留了许多中国留学生，不许他们回国。这些事实，中国人民是很愤慨的。现在杜维廉先生说愿意斡旋，因为我不是主管者，现在不能答复；待我和有关方面研究并请示后再答复吧。

\* 杜维廉系英国驻华谈判代表、出席日内瓦会议英国代表团成员，自1954年5月3日开始与中国代表团顾问、外交部司长宦乡就改善中英两国关系问题进行接触。这是5月19日双方会晤谈话记录的最后部分。

[...]

[Humphrey] Trevelyan: I discussed the aforementioned issues in the capacity as British representative to Beijing. Now I'd like to raise an issue as a private person. As you know, there are many US nationals in China who could not return to the US, and many Chinese nationals in the US who could not return to China. In the interest of both China and the United States, I'd like to serve as mediator for the resolution of the issue. I solemnly declare that I raise this issue only as a private individual. If China wants for me to serve as mediator, I'll be willing to make efforts. If not, it's all right with me.

Huan Xiang: Regarding this issue, China has not detained US nationals and has not prevented them from returning to the United States. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, US nationals willing to depart have already left China if there is no particular hindrance (such as debt disputes, criminal activities, illegal border crossing, etc.). Thousands have left every year. On the contrary, the US has detained many Chinese students, denying their return to their country. The Chinese people are indignant over this. Now Mr. Trevelyan says he would like to serve as a mediator. Since I'm not the official responsible for the matter, I can't respond to your request now. I'll respond after consulting with the relevant units and asking for instructions.