

**February 17, 1954**  
**Letter, General Maxwell D. Taylor to Minister of  
Foreign Affairs Byeon Yeong-tae**

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**Summary:**

General Maxwell D. Taylor, on behalf of General Hull, reports that the United Nations Command has no jurisdictions over North Korean ex- prisoners of war who choose to proceed to a neutral country.

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 301 c/o PM, San Francisco, California

17 February 1954

Mr. Pyun Yung Tae  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Korea  
Seoul, Korea

Dear Mr. Minister,

In General Hull's absence, I am replying to your letters of 8 and 11 February. In these letters you make two proposals. First, you request the United Nations Command to inform you of the disposition of the North Korean ex-prisoners of war who elected to proceed to a neutral country. Second, you ask the UNC to guarantee that these men will not be sent back to the communists; that they will be settled in a neutral country other than India; and, finally that they will not constitute a financial burden to your Government. General Hull has already made clear his belief that their voluntary movement to India was a feasible interim solution to their problem.

As you are aware, the United Nations Command has no further jurisdiction over such personnel. As General Hull has stated before, we have no reason to believe that Indian authorities will not carry out the responsibilities which they have assumed in good faith, and with due regard for the desires of the individuals concerned. The United Nations Command does not anticipate receiving any regular reports on the progress of the resettlement of the ex-prisoners of war, but will furnish you any information which comes to its attention with regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ MAXWELL D. TAYLOR  
General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

(original returned  
to Dr. Pyon)

PM