

U.S. Hopeful Chinese Will Free 11 Airmen

By JAMES LEE

WASHINGTON, June 3. — (INS)—The United States expressed earnest hope today that there is truth in a Manila report that Red China is about to release eleven American airmen jailed as spies.

State Department spokesman Henry Suydam had this terse comment on the report attributed to J. C. Jain, managing editor of the Times of India, a publication regarded as close to the government of Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru:

"We most earnestly hope that the report is true, but we have no official information to this effect."

QUICK ACTION SEEN.

Jain was quoted as saying in Manila that he had learned the eleven airmen, seized by the Chinese Reds when their B-28 was shot down, would be released in twenty-four hours.

Nehru and his roving ambassador, V. K. Krishna Menon, who is due in Washington next week, have sought to mediate the Far Eastern crisis and are credited by some diplomats with having helped to effect release of the four United States jet pilots freed by the Reds this week.

United States intelligence officers in Honolulu, where the liberated pilots are enjoying a reunion with their families, are questioning the four on their knowledge, if any, of the Communists' intention toward the remaining prisoners.

BARGAINING GESTURE

The United States is permitting the return of more than 100 Chinese students to their Communist

not all of the students were being allowed to go back to China.

In another development, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was told that Red China's detention of the eleven Air Force men violates the Korean armistice, the Geneva Convention and the Communists' own pledge.

The statements came from Defense Department General Counsel Brucker and Deputy Undersecretary of State Murphy. They testified in support of early United States ratification of the Geneva pacts; on humane treatment of prisoners of war.

WASHINGTON VIEW.

Brucker said it was and is the contention of the United States that the airmen are illegally detained in violation of the Korean armistice agreement on repatriation of all prisoners who desire to return home.

Murphy testified that though Red China is not a signatory to the Geneva Conventions the Communists announced during the Korean war that they would recognize the pacts.

Secretary of State Dulles, in a letter to Foreign Relations Chairman George, Democrat of Georgia, asked the Senate to ratify the Geneva agreements but to stipulate that the United States rejects Soviet reservations to the conventions.

Russia and its satellites claim the right to subject war prisoners to prosecution and punishment under their own laws in accordance with the principles which governed the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

It is the United States position that the procedure followed at Nuremberg has been superseded by the Geneva Convention of 1949, which has been ratified by forty-seven governments.