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POW ASKS WIFE TO JOIN IN CAMPAIGN FOR WORLD PEACE
THOMAS R. PEASNER

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EXTRACT: * * * * *

POW ASKS WIFE TO JOIN IN CAMPAIGN FOR WORLD PEACE

(Confidential) Mrs. Eve PEASNER, 4943 Rieger St., Dallas, has recently received letters from her husband, Pvt Thomas R PEASNER, RA 18 323 089, POW Camp, Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, which are worthy of note. In a letter dated 3 Dec 52, and mailed care of, The Chinese People's Committee for World Peace, PEASNER requested his wife to join him in his "work in the fight for world peace". After reiterating the need for world peace, the POW asked his wife "to sit down and write 5 letters supporting or requesting support of world peace. Address them to Senator Tom Connally, President Eisenhower, Paul Robeson, John Gates (publisher of the New York Daily Worker), and Howard Fast. You may address Robeson and Fast care of Masses and Mainstream, 832 Broadway, New York, 3, N.Y., of which magazine they are contributing editors". PEASNER went on to say "I know that merely as my wife a more than sufficient body of material will present itself. Express your doubts of the so-called 'benefits' of the Korean war. Think of how the Korean people are being systematically destroyed. Think of your personal suffering in an international light, as the suffering of all the wives of men in Korea, Indonesia, Malaya, etc. And remember who is behind it all. Think and write from the viewpoint of the working class, and I am sure that you will bring this project to a successful conclusion as soon as possible." In closing his letter, PEASNER presented a rather sordid picture of what the world might be like in the event of another world war.

On 17 May 53, Cpl David W. LUDLUM, Ward 9, Percy Jones Army Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich., wrote to Mrs. PEASNER in answer to questions she had asked about her husband. LUDLUM, a POW returnee, wrote, "I knew him (PEASNER) for some time but I never got to know or understand him mainly because he attains a much higher

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intellectual plane than I do and he doesn't come down to earth much. So because of that I cannot tell you hardly how he has adapted himself of course, I believe to be only fair I should not say anything that he might not want to have said." LUDLUM mentioned a "Jack NOBLE from Cal," with whom PEASNER had been composing music when he, PEASNER, was not "playing cards and reading." According to LUDLUM's letter, Mrs. PEASNER has received about 6 letters from her husband, which LUDLUM considered about average. The hospitalized POW returnee added, in closing, "as for him writing articles, I could not say about that. But I'm sure if he wrote any they were of his own free will".

(RO Dallas)

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(Fourth Army) G2 Comment: (Confidential) It appears that PEASNER may have been subjected to an intensive Communist indoctrination program as a POW. As his letter contains elements of the CP line, it is possible he may have fallen victim to the Indoctrination program. It is also possible that PEASNER may have found it expedient to cooperate with the Chinese authorities while not actually believing in their principles. Whatever the case, The Chinese People's Committee for World Peace is probably using PEASNER for propaganda purposes. ROBESON (Negro), FAST, and GATES are all well known American CP members. The Daily Worker is the official organ of the American CP and the Masses and Mainstream (now the New Masses) has been cited by the House Un-American Activities Committee as a CP front publication.

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