

3 July 1972

Dear Harold:

20, 28
10 5 72

I would like for you to read the two attached AP stories and note your own impressions before proceeding further with reading this memo. Go ahead, read 'em. No peeking.

Your reaction is sought because the Peking Man story is not new to us and goes back many years, involves some personal acquaintances, and the opinion of an objective outsider like yourself should be useful.

And if you would keep an eye out for anything on the search for Peking Man, the Greek Heritage Foundation or Christopher Janus we would be grateful. We all know about foundations, I believe.

Both the attached stories contain so many preposterous statements that it's no surprise that no newspaper we've seen used them. I sense that Roderick, in the Tokyo story, did his best to protect himself by just letting Janus ramble on and making no attempt to explain anything. The writer of the New York story is unknown to me, and a woman from the New York ^{of PACE} who was here the other day said she'd never heard of him either, so he must be a new guy.

We have the same feeling about this deal that we had when the first talk of muskoxen was heard here. One suspicion is that the Peking Man relics may be about to be discovered to have been in this country all along, and that Nixon has been trying to use them to bargain with the Chinese. No dice, of course. The Chinese, who could be considered to regard the relics as other countries regard crown ~~and~~ jewels, know what is their own property and what isn't, and will do as they please.

This feeling is strengthened by an article in the issue for last November of Natural History, published by the American Museum of Natural History, by its anthropological curator ~~emeritus~~ emeritus, Dr. Harry L. Shapiro, who has done work on Peking Man and apparently is the ranking American authority on him. This is a very slick job, purporting to be a full account of the disappearance and subsequent search, but carefully vague at critical points, and I suspect he had help in removing some of the specifics from his scientific language.

In any case, the preparation of his article appears to coincide with the exotic fascination of the Greek Heritage Foundation with things Chinese, the emergence after 31 years of silence of Dr. Foley, the Marine doctor who last had custody of the relics, and Kessinger's second trip to Peking last October. Specifically, we suspect one of two things: either the Americans got the relics out of Peking sometime earlier in 1941 in a diplomatic shipment (and probably with full agreement of the then Chinese authorities, in order to prevent their falling into Japanese hands) and prepared the shipment lost at Chinwangtao as a cover to be "captured" if and when war broke out, or the Japanese did capture them at Chinwangtao and the Americans later recovered them in Tokyo and said nothing about it. It is known the Americans did recover a skull of the Java Man from the Emperor's Museum which the Japanese had seized in Bandung.

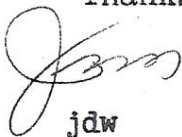
The two men who made the recovery were later CIA agents.

In either case, having kept quiet all this time, the American position could be embarrassing in view of Peking's accusations during the Korean war that the Americans had stolen the Peking Man relics. The "discovery" of them in this country will have to be handled with finesse, and we believe the ~~buildup~~ buildup is under way.

The general American acceptance of the theory that the Japanese found them at Chinwangtao, didn't know what they were and threw them into the sea is utter nonsense. In the first place the Japanese are not careless about property, and ~~the~~ in the second place the packing of such fragile and rare objects would have to have been unmistakable.

Don't go out of your way, but if you see anything bearing on this we'd be most grateful to have it or the reference to it.

Thanks again.



jdw