

E - 221,738

S - 321,833

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Diplomat Arrived in February

Chinese Red Defector Granted Asylum in U. S.

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WASHINGTON, April 24 —
The U. S. will grant political
asylum within the next three
weeks to Liao Ho-shu, the
highest ranking Chinese Com-
munist diplomat ever to defect
from the Peking government.

This was disclosed today by

State Department sources who
also reported that the Admin-
istration is considering sending
a formal note to Communist
protesting the detention of two
Americans whose yacht was
seized more than two months
ago.

State Department officials
were reluctant formally to
grant asylum to Peking's
charge d'affaires to the Neth-
erlands, who has been under
U. S. protection since his arri-
val here in February, because
they feared it could make
things worse for the Americans
in Chinese custody.

PEKING USED the allega-
tion that the Central Intelli-
gence Agency engineered Liao
Ho-shu's defection in January
as a pretext for backing out of
the ambassadorial-level War-
saw talks with the U. S. on
Feb. 20.

"We haven't wanted to pro-
test about the Americans before
because we were afraid it
would escalate the dispute to
the level of a U. S.-China pol-
itical confrontation," a high-
ranking government China ex-
pert explained.

There is also increasing con-
cern here, based on reports
from the four Americans
yachtsmen released by Peking
almost four weeks ago, that the
two remaining captives will be
tried and severely sentenced if
the U. S. does not make it clear
that such punishment would
worsen relations.

On April 3, the Peking gov-
ernment freed two of the three
yachts seized on Feb. 15 in
Chinese waters of the Pearl
River estuary off the Portu-
guese Colony of Macao, and 13 of
the 15 passengers, including 6
Americans.