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# THE WHITE HOUSE

November 6, 1976

### ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR 900

SUBJECT:

Letter from Senator Mansfield and

Report on his PRC Visit

The attached was returned in the outbox with the following notation:

"Excellent/will you write Mike a thank you."

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON Sunt Bowerft Spallert will you with your work your

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#### APPENDIX

- I. Letter of Transmittal
- II. Report to the President

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- III. Meeting, October 7, 1976, with Wang Hai-jung, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
- IV. Meeting, October 9, 1976, with Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien
- V. Notes on October 10, 1976 Meeting with Feng Kuo-chu, Vice Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Revolutionary Committee

## United States Senate Office of the Majority Tender Washington, P.C. 20510

October 26, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Together with Senator John Glenn and a party of eight others, I entered the People's Republic of China at Shanghai on September twenty-first. The group departed from China three weeks later. In this third visit to the Chinese People's Republic, I criss-crossed the country, traveling about 9,000 miles by plane, rail, bus, ferry and automobile. My itinerary led from Shanghai on the East coast to the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region whose closed borders extend for hundreds of miles along the frontiers of the Soviet Union and Outer Mongolia. The week's visit in Sinkiang was the first of an official U. S. delegation. A warm reception was encountered from the local inhabitants of thirteen or more nationalities.

In addition to Sinkiang in the Northwest, I visited cities in Kiangsu Province, including Wuxi and Nanking, and in the southern province of Kuangtung, the ancestral place of so many Americans of Chinese origin.

Several days were spent in Peking. Conversations were held there with Wang Hai-jung, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Li Hsien-nien, Vice-Premier of the State Council and other Chinese officials. Your ambassador at the U.S. Liaison Office, Tom Gates, and members of his staff also provided me with the benefit of their observations.

In my judgment, this visit to the People's Republic served as an effective expression of the collaboration between the Presidency and the Senate in the evolution of United States policy with regard to China. I am happy to have been a part of this process since its outset which goes back to the Johnson Administration when I made my first attempt to establish contact with the Peking government.

In retrospect, even as it seemed to me at the time, President Nixon's initiative in going to Peking in 1972 was a very wise decision in that it ended a long period of debilitating inertia in United States policy with regard to China. At best, the lapse of friendly contact between the two countries for a quarter of a century undoubtedly contributed to great

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waste of U. S. resources in the Western Pacific. At worst, it may well have been a factor in the outbreak of conflict between the Chinese and ourselves in Korea, not to speak of the tragic U. S. involvement in Vietnam. Looking ahead, the restoration of full diplomatic contact could take on great significance for the welfare of the people of the United States.

It should be noted that almost five years have already passed since President Nixon's ice-breaking visit to Peking. I would be less than candid if I did not express the hope, that, henceforth, there will be a more positive follow-through on the Shanghai Communique. For reasons which are set forth in this report protracted delay tends to erode the value to this nation's interest of the Nixon initiative.

With warm personal regards and high esteem, I am,

Respectfully,

pule monsfield

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