

DECEMBER 4, 1975

POOL REPORT

Morning meeting - Great Hall

The President and Secretary Kissinger led the American delegation into the Great Hall at 10:05 am China time. They were met in the hallway by Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping and other Chinese officials who formed a receiving line. The President, Kissinger, Bush, Scowcroft, Sisco, Habib and Lord went through the line exchanging pleasantries before going into the meeting room. When both sides were seated at the conference table Teng immediately asked the President through his interpreter, "Did you have a good rest?" and Ford responded, "I certainly did, After 3 very beneficial and very friendly and I think very constructive days here, I'm looking forward to the final session which I hope will be as helpful and constructive and significant as the ones before.

Picking up his cue, Vice Premier Teng responded, "And we're also very happy about the fact that our sides are setting a new style this time. That is, we don't think we are compelled to issue a communique." We think the importance lies in the visit itself and that our two sides have had significant discussions. We don't think the importance lies in such a superficial thing as a communique."

Ford responded, saying "I would agree that actions and agreements are much more important than words and I think discussions are more significant than a piece of paper." Teng then looked the assembled reporters and observed "the ladies and gentlemen of the press won't be so satisfied. And they will also note again probably that I am beginning to smoke again."

After some laughter Ford continued the dialogue saying, "Well, Mr. Vice Premier, the relations between the United States and the Peoples Republic of China -- this relationship is strengthened by the visit and the meetings with Chairman Mao and yourself are the kinds of meetings that can be meaningful in the months ahead. I have my pipe out too, but they all know that I do that."

At this point Helen Thomas interjected "We want a rebuttal some day." More laughter, and the pool was ushered out.

Tom Brokaw

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