

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Peking, People's Republic of China)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF TOASTS  
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
TENG HSIAO-PING  
VICE PREMIER  
OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

THE GREAT HALL

8:00 P.M. (Peking Time)

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Vice Premier, Mr. Foreign Minister, and all Chinese friends here tonight:

On behalf of Mrs. Ford and all the Americans present, I extend to each and every one of you a very, very warm welcome.

Tomorrow morning we leave China with many regrets. It has been a significant visit.

The wide-ranging talks that I have held with Chairman Mao and with Vice Premier Teng have been friendly, candid, substantial and constructive. We discussed our differences, which are natural in a relationship between two countries whose ideologies, societies and circumstances diverge. But, we also confirmed that we have important points in common.

We reviewed our bilateral relationship. The visit confirmed that although our relations are not yet normalized, they are good. They will be gradually improved because we both believe that a strengthening of our ties benefits our two peoples.

I am confident that through our mutual efforts we can continue to build a relationship which advances the national interests of the United States and the People's Republic of China.

In our talks, I reaffirmed that the United States is committed to complete the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China on the basis of the Shanghai Communique.

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Our bilateral ties are very important. But, both of us attach even greater significance to the international aspects of our relationship. It was certain common perceptions and common interests which brought our countries together four years ago.

Among these is our agreement not to seek hegemony over others and our fundamental opposition to the efforts of others to impose hegemony in any part of the world. This reflects the realism which is a hallmark of our relationship. And, realism is a firmer basis than sentiment for sound and durable ties.

It is only natural that the People's Republic of China and the United States will follow their own policies and tactics, governed by their perceptions of their own national interests.

The United States is firmly dedicated to an international order of peace, justice and prosperity for all. The task which confronts us -- which confronts all peoples of the world -- is not easy. It requires both firmness of principle and tactics adapted to particular circumstances.

It requires national strength and the will to use it, as well as prudence to avoid unnecessary conflict. It requires acceptance of peaceful change to accommodate human aspirations for progress. All must help to build a durable and equitable international system, though inevitably contributions will often be diverse.

I believe that our discussions this week have significantly promoted those objectives we share concerning both our bilateral relations and the international scene. They will benefit our two peoples, as well as the peoples of the world.

In closing, I wish to express the sincere appreciation of Mrs. Ford and myself, and all of those traveling with us, for the very warm hospitality that we have received.

Mr. Vice Premier, I hope that you will convey my personal thanks to all who have helped to make our visit so pleasurable.

I ask all of you to join me in a toast to the health of Chairman Mao, to the health of Premier Chou En-lai, to the health of Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, to the health of all Chinese friends here tonight, and to the friendship between the American and the Chinese people.

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VICE PREMIER TENG: Mr. President and Mrs. Ford, Mr. Secretary of State, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends:

President Ford will conclude his visit to China tomorrow. Here, on behalf of my Chinese colleagues present, I would like to thank President Ford for giving this banquet on the eve of his departure.

In the last few days, our two sides have held several beneficial talks on matters of mutual interest. What is particularly important, Chairman Mao Tsetung had an earnest and significant conversation with President Ford on wide-ranging issues in a friendly atmosphere.

China and the United States have different social systems, our two sides have different ideologies, and naturally there are differences of principle between us. At the same time, in the present international situation, our two countries face problems of mutual concern and share many common points.

The direct exchange of views between the leaders of our two countries on this occasion helps to increase mutual understanding and serves to promote efforts by both the Chinese and American sides toward the direction and goal defined in the Shanghai Communique.

Both sides agree that the Shanghai Communique is a document of historic significance and constitutes the basis of Sino-U.S. relations. As facts prove, it remains full of vitality today.

President and Mrs. Ford and their party have also visited places of interest in Peking and come into contact with people of various circles in our capital. Our American guests must have found that the Chinese people are friendly to the American people.

On the eve of the departure of President and Mrs. Ford from China, I would like to take this opportunity to convey the best wishes of the Chinese people for the American people.

I wish President and Mrs. Ford and their party a pleasant journey. In conclusion, I propose a toast to the friendship between the Chinese and American peoples, to the health of President and Mrs. Ford, to the health of the other American guests, and to the health of our comrades and friends present.

END (AT 8:27 P.M. PEKING TIME)