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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 17, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT
FROM: JIM CONNOR
SUBJECT: Report from Senator Carl Curtis
re visit to People's Republic
of China

The attached report from Senator Carl Curtis covering his trip to the People's Republic of China was directed to you in the President's outbox.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Max Friedersdorf

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Gen. Scowcroft

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 10, 1976

Dear Mr. President,

I am taking this opportunity to express my appreciation to you for appointing me to the delegation to visit the People's Republic of China. Mildred and I wish to thank you most sincerely for this great opportunity and for this most interesting experience.

May I also take this occasion to convey to you my thoughts concerning the People's Republic of China as it related to the official policies of the United States?

I found the Chinese people to be friendly individuals. I was impressed by the fact that they were all working and that they all looked well and happy.

I am convinced that the concern they express in reference to the Soviet threat is genuine and real. They frequently mention this. Because of their belief concerning the danger of Soviet aggression, they welcome the friendship and cooperation of the United States.

The People's Republic of China through its officials will urge a full normalization of relations between our two countries and will repeat the party line in reference to Taiwan. These people believe in one China and that the People's Republic of China should be that one China; also, that the People's Republic should possess and govern Taiwan. However, as the conversations proceeded, the officials admitted that the world problem of Soviet aggression is of supreme importance and that Taiwan is a lesser issue. I think this is significant.

I believe it would be a mistake for us to abrogate our treaty with Taiwan and desert our friends in Taiwan. It would reflect very badly upon the United States for us to break a treaty. Other nations would not know when they could rely on the United States.

As a further reason for not deserting Taiwan, I want to point out that the People's Republic of China is a closed Marxist

The President
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society. Our group gave a gift to our guides and interpreters of two World Atlases and some copies of Bartlett's quotations. Later they talked with me as Chairman of the delegation and to Senator Birch Bayh as Vice Chairman. We were told that they could not accept the gifts since they contain errors. The Chinese mentioned that the Atlases were wrong about Taiwan and they stated that many of the quotations were in error because they were contrary to the Marxist teachings. This is quite significant. The People's Republic is a closed society to Christianity and all other religions and to private enterprise. All of these things not only are present in Taiwan but flourish there. It would be wrong for the United States to do anything that would destroy the liberty and freedom of any of these people.

I do not think that it is necessary for us to abrogate a treaty or forsake Taiwan to continue to have the friendship and the cooperation of the People's Republic of China. If the United States stands firm and everyone is patient, a solution might come about that would be acceptable to all the parties involved, including Taiwan.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl T. Curtis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

CARL T. CURTIS, USS

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

P. S. Attached hereto are transcripts of our conversations with Vice Premier Li and Vice Foreign Minister Wang.