

The original documents are located in Box D33, folder “Press Conference of Representatives Hale Boggs and Gerald Ford re China Trip, July 8, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Mr. Boggs:

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Mr. Ford and I are very happy indeed to be back. We have made available to each of you a very brief statement, telling of the places we visited in the Peoples Republic of China. They are spelled out, but Shanghai, Peking, Shen Yang, Anshan and Canton. They took us from the coast of China at Shanghai to the North Central part of China at Peking and to the northeastern part of China, where no official Americans have been in 23 years. Finally down to Canton and by rail back into Hong Kong. We have had a most interesting and informative trip and one that I consider most encouraging for the future of the rest of mankind. I yield to Mr. Ford and then simply open the rest of the press conference to questions.

Ford: Let me reiterate what Congressman Boggs has said. There are two things I think we ought to set forth before we get into the question and answer period. Immediately on our return at Andrews Air Force Base, we called the President and had a 30-minute conversation with him. We were advised in Peking after our conference with Cho^u En-Lai that there had to be confidentiality concerning the lengthy discussions we had with him. Other than that I think we are ready, willing and able to answer any questions concerning a very fascinating, a very interesting, and I think very helpful 10-day trip to China itself.

Q. Mr. Ford, Do you feel that, without breaking the confidentiality, that there is any indication that the reports coming out of London during the past week that China and Russia are putting pressure on North Vietnam to end the Vietnam conflict?

A. We had no indication of any outside pressure^R. The Chinese made statements comparable to this, and this comment was made by high officials (not Chou En-Lai, I might add) that the North Vietnamese are their friends. They naturally support the North Vietnamese; They believe the solution to the problem in Vietnam, between the United States and the North Vietnamese, is one that we must settle at the negotiating table.

Q. The Administration yesterday ~~granted~~ an export license to the Boeing Co. for the sale of ~~747 jets to China~~ 707 jets (to China). Is this any indication... (inaudible).

(Boggs)

A. We had a great many conversations, and in depth, with officials of the Peoples Republic of China with respect to trade between the United States and China. It is our impression that in the area of high technology such as jet aircraft, computers, advanced medical instruments and the whole realm of advanced chemistry in the United States, the Chinese are very much interested. And the question of day-to-day trade such as we carry on normally with the other nations, Europe or Canada, China hopes to be self sufficient. It's a very large nation that's bigger than the United States. It has vast natural resources, and I would not anticipate any tremendous increase of normal trade. On the other hand I do believe that the Boeing 707 sale is a pretty good indication of the type of trade that we may anticipate in the reasonably near future.

Q. Gentlemen, you say in your report that you have a number of recommendations to make to the President. Could you share any of those recommendations with us today?

(Ford)

A. Well, I would indicate that Mr. Boggs and I certainly feel that in the field of medicine there is a great opportunity for we in the United States to benefit from the phenomenal things ~~that~~ they do with acupuncture. On the other hand the Chinese are very, very interested in some of our medical advancements. And, therefore I think that we should send to China the benefit of our research in cancer, heart and stroke. This is an area which would be highly beneficial to both parties.

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A. I would add to that more general recommendations ~~XXXXXX~~ And these come after certainly a brief visit, one who goes to any land and spends a

few days there and returns as an expert is more of a jackass than an expert. But one on the other hand must necessarily form certain conclusions. We were very intensely briefed. We saw a great deal of China physically. We saw many of its institutions, from its child care centers of kindergarten through middle schools and the universities. We visited the communes, both the agricultural communes and the workers communes. We visited industry, both heavy industry and light industry, neighborhood industry. And we talked to a great many Chinese. It is my impression that the Chinese certainly now are concerned with their internal problems. They are not interested in external aggression. They are very much interested in normalizing relations with the United States. Which, of course, means the recognition of the two governments, the exchange of Ambassadors, the relatively free movement of science and business people, and so on.

Q. Mr. Boggs, it seems that Europe is not the "in" place any more, as ^{congressmen and other} quoted by _____ government officials, and China is. Do you think ~~there will be more congressmen going to China?~~

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The point you make is well taken. I think that a vast number of our colleagues will try to go to China. And Mr. Ford and I were both asked by many of our colleagues if we could assist in that direction. And we discussed this with Premier Chou En-Lai in some detail. He indicated that he would like to have members of Congress visit China in relatively small groups and in a bipartisan fashion such as the two previous groups.

Congressman Boggs and Congressman Ford in your statement you called on both parties to promote the normalization of ^{relations with China.} What are you asking your respective parties to do?

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Of course I haven't seen what the Republican Platform preliminary drafts are at the present time. But I do assure you, based on conversations with Congressman John Rhodes, that our party platform will strongly praise the efforts of the President in opening the door and will also ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ indicate that the normalization of relations should expand in many, many fields. This is a bipartisan effort as indicated by the visit of the two senators and Mr. Boggs and myself. I can't predict the language of the Democratic Platform in this regard, but I suspect it will be one also of favorable comment because this is in the best interest of the United States, not in any one political party.

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I might add to that that I have been informed that the Democratic Platform specifically calls for the normalization of relations with the Peoples Republic of China.

(Ford)

One of the questions that Mr. Boggs and I raised specifically was the vice-chairman of Foreign Affairs, Mr. ^{Chiao Kuan-hua,} ~~Chiao Kuan-hua,~~ was the situation regarding the American prisoners. The response was that ~~XXXX~~ Mr. Downey the civilian and the two military personnel, Smith and Quinn, was being noted, and the question was asked, were there any other American ~~any~~ prisoners held, ^{to his knowledge,} either from the Korean War or the Vietnam War, and the response was ~~/~~ no. I think this ~~was~~ is very important from the point of view of many ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ wives, mothers and fathers who have been concerned over the years about people missing in action from both engagements. And we were ^{assured} ~~sure~~ there were none other than those who were known by name.

Q. Congressman Boggs, what's your reaction to what your party has done in the way of party reform, specifically the platform _____

(Boggs)

A. I'm not really competent to answer the question. I've been away from the country for two weeks, and developments have been very rapid, and there is one thing you will find out very ~~xxx~~ quickly in the Peoples Republic of China and that is that you don't get very much news from other parts of the world. So unfortunately I'm really not comp^Etent to answer your question.

(Ford)

^{A.} Let me add in a light way if I might. We saw no evidence obviously of ~~xx~~ elections in the Peoples Republic of China, and therefore there was no need or necessity for ~~xxxx~~ any campaign or election reform legislation.

Q. Did you talk about normalization/^{of}relations and exchange of -----
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Q. You said that Chou En-Lai indicated ^{he would} welcome visits from other congressmen. ~~Did he indicate that~~ other classifications of Americans ~~would be welcome?~~

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A. Yes, quite definitely. He mentioned journalists and as a matter of fact I would say ~~x~~ that more journalists have visited the Peoples Republic of China than any single group of Americans up to now. There were a number of others as well. He mentioned educators. There were several educators there. Mr. Fairbank of Harvard was there.

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Q. ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Ford, you talked about no need for electoral reform ^{in China.} Did Premier Chou show any knowledge or interest in the electoral process in the United States?

(Ford)

A. I don't think we should reveal that kind of information as to the talks we had with him. I would add this, however, (and this is not in reference to our conversations with Premier Chou). Among high Chinese officials there was a great deal of interest shown and many questions asked about the sufficiency of our military capability and what the direction might be in the future as to our Defense Department and its funding and its programming.

(Boggs)

A. I would like to get back to that question and say that while it seemed to be studiously non-partisan there was at all levels a tremendous amount of

interest in the electoral process in the United States. One piece of news that did come through (as a matter of fact, I picked it up on the -----Voice----- of America) was the action of the Democratic Credentials Committee with respect to the California delegation. And many people asked me to explain that to them. They wanted to know the whole process. The Credentials Committee, what its function was, how it is set up, how delegates were selected, why were they pledged, why weren't they pledged, where the convention was, what the function of the convention was. In other ~~words~~ words it was almost like a very intelligent high school youngster in a civics class. I'm talking now about interpreters and people that we talked to generally. And I would also like to give a general feeling that I had and I think that Mr. Ford shared, and ~~that~~ that is that uniformly we found a tremendous amount of interest in the United States. I was unable to find any hostility and the traditional Chinese reputation for friendliness and hospitality was exceeded.

(Ford)

A. We were especially warmly welcomed, as Mr. Boggs indicated, when we were in Shen Yang and Anshan which is in the northeastern part of China. No American official had visited that part of China for 20 some years. We were welcomed in the ~~traditional~~ traditional Chinese fashion, not only by a ~~handwave~~ handwave but applause by people on the street. We went into a typical ~~Chinese~~ Chinese department store and somehow the rumor got out that we were there. By the time that we came out the street was lined on both sides. I couldn't guess how many people were there but there were at least ~~three or~~ ^{because} four thousand, in my judgment. It was really a heartwarming experience. ~~This~~ This was spontaneous on their part.

Congressman Ford, did I understand ~~you~~ you to say that when you were asked ~~by~~ ^{by} Chinese leaders about ~~military spending~~ ^{under Republican and Democratic administrations?} in this country ~~and the Democratic Party~~ ~~and the Republican Party~~

(Ford)

A. It was not put on the basis of Democratic or Republican policy. The

question was were we going to reduce our military strength in light of this Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Were we going to withdraw from various parts ~~of the world~~ of the world. ~~They were intensely~~ They were intensely interested in what our role would be diplomatically, militarily in the world as a whole and the specifics of what our plans might be in military programs and funding.

Q. What did you tell them?

(Ford)

A. I referred to a vote that we had heard that was taken in the House of Representatives while we were in China. The House of Representatives, as we understood it from the news reports, passed the military procurement authorization bill overwhelmingly, defeated any efforts to reduce the recommendations of the Committee on Armed Services. We indicated to them that this was a traditional position of strength in the House of Representatives on a bipartisan basis and we thought this would be the eventual final conclusion of the Congress in 1972.

Q. Congressman Ford, do you think that based on ----- the President's foreign policy record that the Republicans will ~~will~~ defeat the Democratic ~~candidates in November?~~

(Ford)

I think in this press conference it is better if we keep on the policy ...th, ~~xx~~ the press conference ^{coverage}/related to our trip.

Q. Congressman, in reference to your question the answer before that, it strikes me that this is an obvious reference to the United States attitude toward the Soviet Union. Are these questions about our military function, etc, made in reference to their worry about our backing down in terms of maintaining a position of strength ~~xxxxxxx~~ regarding the Soviet Union?

(Boggs)

A. I think we would be totally less than frank with you if we did not indicate that the impression that has been widespread in the West for several years now about the tension between the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China is accurate. It's quite accurate. And following through on Mr. Ford's observations we were advised by high officials that the policy of ~~XXXXX~~^{that} government is disarmament but not unilateral disarmament. And there was specific concern expressed, rather emphatically, with regard to the possibility of continued Soviet armament and American disarmament.

Q. Sir, could you put it in another way and say that ^{you got the impression that} they were urging the United States to keep their defenses up?

(Boggs)

A. I could put it this way ~~XXXXX~~ that in the present world while they are much concerned over the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ resolution of the ~~XXXXX~~ Vietnamese question and the whole question of Indochina, Southeast Asia, they, in my judgment would be terribly concerned if the United States ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ reverted to a policy of isolationism.

~~XXXXX~~ (Ford)

A. Let me reiterate and reemphasize strongly what Mr. Boggs has said. They don't want the United States ~~XX~~ to withdraw from the Pacific or from the world at any point. They believe our presence is important for the stability of the world now and in the future. A militarily-weak United States, at least I got the impression, would create instability rather than stability in the resolution of the many, many problems that all nations face today.

(Boggs)

A. This is ~~XX~~ a very large country with a great many people, over 800 million. Agriculture, while it has improved immensely, ^{it's still} ~~XX~~ by Western standards is primitive. Their industry still must be developed. What I

am saying to you, they said to us time and time again, they said we have made progress , but much more remains to be done and we are a developing country and to develop we must have the time and effort and energy devoted internally and not externally.

Q. They feel, Sir, that a withdrawal of the United States might encourage the Soviet Union to move into the vacuum thus created/^{thereby}causing problems for them?

(Ford)

A. I wouldn't say they put it as bluntly as you have said. ~~They~~ They're concerned about nations such as ourselves participating in a stable Pacific and that the United States withdrawal would create the instability. I wouldn't want to go any further than that in explaining the context ~~in~~ in which we discussed it.

Q. Would you comment a bit on what you judge to be their relations with the Soviet Union and whatever their fears might be?

(Boggs)

A. I think we've already covered it.

Q. In regard to the stability of the Pacific, did Japan come up in that respect?

(Ford)

A. They talked about the major powers that all had an interest in the Pacific.

(Boggs)

A. I would say that in answer ~~to~~ to that question that there's ~~XXXXXXXX~~ an equal interest, again, ~~for~~ for the normalization of relations with Japan.

Q. Equal to what? ~~Equal to~~ Interest in normalization of relations ^{with} the United States.

(Boggs)

Check.

Q. They speak of ~~normalization of relations with the Japanese~~?

(Boggs)

A. Oh, yes. A great deal.

(Ford)

A. One of the very broad things that I was impressed with and I'm sure ^{because} Mr. Boggs was ~~xxx~~ we talked about it in length. You come away from China with an impression of total discipline and dedication, Starting at a very early age. Dedication to their system, ~~x~~ dedication to their objectives. They are really convinced that if they all have ~~xxx~~ this dedication and this discipline that their society, industrially, economically, educationally, ~~xxx~~ and otherwise will make great strides forward in the next two decades. And this has some important ~~implications~~-from our point of view. We have to recognize that ~~xxx~~ although ~~xxx~~ they're possibly behind ~~xxx~~ in certain areas, technically and some other areas, we have to recognize that this kind of discipline and this kind of dedication for our children and our children's children is a matter of deep concern.

Q. Mr. Ford, you mentioned at the outset that they said they were supporting, naturally, the North Vietnamese. ~~Subsequently~~, you and Congressman Boggs spoke of their belief that the United States should stay in the ~~xx~~ Pacific. Are they separating these two and saying that the United States should get out of Indochina but stay in Thailand and Okinawa and places like that?

(Mr. Boggs)

A. That's a very difficult question to answer or even to speculate ~~x~~ on, and I wouldn't even try to. My impression of that is as they put it, and this is no secret. There are two super powers, ~~THE~~ the United States and Russia. And if Russia becomes a greater super power ~~XXXX~~ then much of the world could ~~well be in difficulty, and~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Where that means people ~~XXXX~~ ^{may} be located physically or what kind of weapons are required is something else. And I am totally, completely unknowledgeable on that subject.

Q. Did they express any interest in joining the disarmament talks, either SALT or the ones in Geneva?

(Ford)

A. No. But they did say and they did repeat that they are for total disarmament on the broadest most comprehensive way or comprehensive sense. They are not ~~pleased~~ ^{pleased} or they are not impressed say with the two super powers coming ~~XXXXXX~~ to such an agreement. They have said, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I think historically, that they want disarmament, period. And they reiterated that to us on several occasions.

Q. Did they mention the Chinese ~~or the French~~ nuclear tests?

(Ford)

A. No.

Q. Did they talk about their own nuclear proposal which is to destroy all nuclear weapons?

(Boggs)

Not a

A. ~~Now the~~ new proposal, we made it back in the days of ~~Bernard Baruch~~ in 1946.

(Ford)

A. They did say that under no circumstances would their development (and this has been said many times) that they would never use it on a first-strike basis.

Q. question muffled

(Ford)

A. No, they did not.

Q. Anything about the ships, -----~~the~~ ships ~~was~~ shelled as a result of ~~lighters~~----- bringing supplies to ~~Vietnam~~ North Vietnam? -----.

Q. In answer to your previous question/they showed skepticism about the Moscow agreement on nuclear restraint, the ABM and the technical agreement. about disarmament,

(Boggs)

A. I wouldn't say that they showed skepticism. They, in answer to a specific question, they approved. But as for general disarmament without the participation of all nations of the world they ~~they~~ showed considerable ~~xxx~~ skepticism.

(Ford)

A. They just think it should be on a broad, broad basis, including all weapons. Not only are they against further development, they're for the destruction of many of the weapons that ~~xxxxxx~~ are already in being and deployed.

Q. Congressman, could you ----- us on the basis of your conversation with ~~xxxx~~ the leaders in Peking and Taiwan ----- in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the

the United States and ~~the mainland~~. Or do you believe now that this problem can be ~~satisfied~~ ^{satisfied,} ~~substantially~~ or even in the absence of an ultimate resolution of the problems of Taiwan ^{that} ~~and~~ diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking could be established?

(Boggs)

A. Well, I have two impressions. The first is that this is indeed one of the top ~~XX~~ difficulties with respect to normalization of relations between the United States and the Peoples Republic of China. The second is it is their feeling as I understood that this is a matter that can be worked out between the Peoples Republic of China and Taiwan.

Q. How?

(Ford)

A. But they did not trust us in trying to give an answer or a key to this current difficulty for the total normalization of our relations with the Peoples Republic of China.

(Boggs)

A. Correct. They did not trust.

Q. Congressman Ford, did you see any ~~possibility~~ ^{possibility} of armed ~~conflict~~ between Communist China and the Soviet Union?

(Ford)

A. We did not engage in any discussions ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ that kind of detail. We recognize they have differences they indicated, which is a fact that they have differences, but as to the imminence or the possibility, ~~they~~ there was no discussion.

(Boggs)

A. Well, as a matter of fact, the deputy foreign minister~~X~~ said that the discussions were by word of mouth and by writings~~g~~. I certainly have heard little any indications of any armed conflict~~o~~.

Q. Congressman Boggs, may I pose a political question to you since you are ~~YOUNG PARTY~~ one of your Party's leaders.

(Boggs)

A. Q. You mean a Chinese political question.

Q. No sir, its about -----

(Boggs)

A. Well I would be glad to hold a press conference about that but not at this ~~one~~ time.

Newsman: Thank you, sir.

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A. I don't think we should reveal that kind of information as to the talks we had with him. I would add this, however, (and this is not in reference to our conversations with Premier Chou). Among high Chinese officials there was a great deal of interest shown and many questions asked about the sufficiency of our military capability and what the direction might be in the future as to our Defense Department and its funding and its programming.

(Boggs)

A. I would like to get back to that question and say that while it seemed to be studiously non-partisan there was at all levels a tremendous amount of



interest in the electoral process in the United States. One piece of news that did come through (as a matter of fact, I picked it up on the -----Voice----- of America) was the action of the Democratic Credentials Committee with respect to the California delegation. And many people asked me to explain that to them. They wanted to know the whole process. The Credentials Committee, what its function was, how it is set up, how delegates were selected, why were they pledged, why weren't they pledged, where the convention was, what the function of the convention was. In other ~~XXXX~~ words it was almost like a very intelligent high school youngster in a civics class. I'm talking now about interpreters and people that we talked to generally. And I would also like to give a general feeling that I had and I think that Mr. Ford shared, and ~~X~~ that is that uniformly we found a tremendous amount of interest in the United States. I was unable to find any hostility and the traditional Chinese reputation for friendliness and hospitality was exceeded.

(Ford)

A. We were especially warmly welcomed, as Mr. Boggs indicated, when we were in Shen Yang and Anshan which is in the northeastern part of China. No American official had visited that part of China for 20 some years. We were welcomed in the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ traditional Chinese fashion, not only by a ~~X~~ handwave but applause by people on the street. We went into a typical ~~XX~~ Chinese department store and somehow the rumor got out that we were there. By the time that we came out the street was lined on both sides. I couldn't guess how many people were there but there were at least three or four thousand, in my judgment. It was really a heartwarming experience ~~X~~ ^{because} This was spontaneous on their part.

Congressman Ford, did I understand ~~you~~ you to say that when you were asked ~~by~~ ^{by} Chinese leaders about military spending ~~in this country~~ ^{under Republican and Democratic administrations?} ~~in this country~~ ~~under the Democratic administration~~

(Ford)

A. It was not put on the basis of Democratic or Republican policy. The

question was were we going to reduce our military strength in light of this Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Were we going to withdraw from various parts ~~of the world~~ of the world. ~~They were~~ They were intensely interested in what our role would be diplomatically, militarily in the world as a whole and the specifics of what our plans might be in military programs and funding.

Q. What did you tell them?

(Ford)

A. I referred to a vote that we had heard that was taken in the House of Representatives while we were in China. The House of Representatives, as we understood it from the news reports, passed the military procurement authorization bill overwhelmingly, defeated any efforts to reduce the recommendations of the Committee on Armed Services. We indicated to them that this was a traditional position of strength in the House of Representatives on a bipartisan basis and we thought this would be the eventual final conclusion of the Congress in 1972.

Q. Congressman Ford, do you think that based on ----- the President's foreign policy record that the Republicans will ~~XXXX~~ defeat the Democratic candidate in November?

(Ford)

I think in this press conference it is better if we keep on the policy ...th, ^{coverage} ~~or~~ the press conference/related to our trip.

Q. Congressman, in reference to your question the answer before that, it strikes me that this is an obvious reference to the United States attitude toward the Soviet Union. Are these questions about our military function, etc, made in reference to their worry about our backing down in terms of maintaining a position of strength ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ regarding the Soviet Union?

(Boggs)

A. I think we would be totally less than frank with you if we did not indicate that the impression that has been widespread in the West for several years now about the tension between the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China is accurate. It's quite accurate. And following through on Mr. Ford's observations we were advised by high officials that the policy of ~~XXXXX~~^{that} government is disarmament but not unilateral disarmament. And there was specific concern expressed, rather emphatically, with regard to the possibility of continued Soviet armament and American disarmament.

Q. Sir, could you put it in another way and say that ^{you got the impression that} they were urging the United States to keep their defenses up?

(Boggs)

A. I could put it this way ~~XXXXXX~~ that in the present world while they are much concerned over the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ resolution of the ~~XXXXXX~~ Vietnamese question and the whole question of Indochina, Southeast Asia, they, in my judgment would be terribly concerned if the United States ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ reverted to a policy of isolationism.

~~XXXXXX~~ (Ford)

A. Let me reiterate and reemphasize strongly what Mr. Boggs has said. They don't want the United States ~~XX~~ to withdraw from the Pacific or from the world at any point. They believe our presence is important for the stability of the world now and in the future. A militarily-weak United States, at least I got the impression, would create instability rather than stability in the resolution of the many, many problems that all nations face today.

(Boggs)

A. This is ~~XX~~ a very large country with a great many people, over 800 million. Agriculture, while it has improved immensely, ^{it's still} ~~XX~~ by Western standards is primitive. Their industry still must be developed. What I

am saying to you, they said to us time and time again, they said we have made progress , but much more remains to be done and we are a developing country and to develop we must have the time and effort and energy devoted internally and not externally.

Q. They feel, Sir, that a withdrawal of the United States might encourage the Soviet Union to move into the vacuum thus created/^{thereby}causing problems for them?

(Ford)

A. I wouldn't say they put it as bluntly as you have said. ~~THEY~~ They're concerned about nations such as ourselves participating in a stable Pacific and that the United States withdrawal would create the instability. I wouldn't want to go any further than that in explaining the context ~~IN~~ in which we discussed it.

Q. Would you comment a bit on what you judge to be their relations with the Soviet Union and whatever their fears might be?

(Boggs)

A. I think we've already covered it.

Q. In regard to the stability of the Pacific, did Japan come up in that respect?

(Ford)

A. They talked about the major powers that all had an interest in the Pacific.

(Boggs)

A. I would say that in answer ~~IN~~ to that question that there's ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ an equal interest, again, ~~IN~~ for the normalization of relations with Japan.

Q. Equal to what? ~~Interest~~ Interest in normalization of relations ~~with~~ the United States.

(Boggs)

Check.

Q. They speak of normalization of relations with the Japanese?

(Boggs)

A. Oh, yes. A great deal.

(Ford)

A. One of the very broad things that I was impressed with and I'm sure Mr. Boggs was ~~and~~ ^{because} we talked about it in length. You come away from China with an impression of total discipline and dedication, Starting at a very early age. Dedication to their system, ~~a~~ dedication to their objectives. They are really convinced that if they all have ~~this~~ this dedication and this discipline that their society, industrially, economically, educationally, ~~and~~ and otherwise will make great strides forward in the next two decades. And this has some important ~~implications~~—from our point of view. We have to recognize that ~~that~~ although ~~they're~~ they're possibly behind ~~in~~ in certain areas, technically and some other areas, we have to recognize that this kind of discipline and this kind of dedication for our children and our children's children is a matter of deep concern.

Q. Mr. Ford, you mentioned at the outset that they said they were supporting, naturally, the North Vietnamese. ~~Subsequently~~, you and Congressman Boggs spoke of their belief that the United States should stay in the ~~the~~ Pacific. Are they separating these two and saying that the United States should get out of Indochina but stay in Thailand and Okinawa and places like that?



(Mr. Boggs)

A. That's a very difficult question to answer or even to speculate ~~x~~ on, and I wouldn't even try to. My impression of that is as they put it, and this is no secret. There are two super powers, ~~THE~~ the United States and Russia. And if Russia becomes a greater super power ~~XXXX~~ then much of the world could ~~well be in difficulty and confusion~~ Where that means people ~~XXXX~~ ^{may} be located physically or what kind of weapons are required is something else. And I am totally, completely unknowledgeable on that subject.

Q. Did they express any interest in joining the disarmament talks, either SALT or the ones in Geneva?

(Ford)

A. No. But they did say and they did repeat that they are for total disarmament on the broadest most comprehensive way or comprehensive sense. They are not ~~pleased~~ ^{pleased} or they are not impressed say with the two super powers coming ~~XXXXXX~~ to such an agreement. They have said ~~XXXXXXXX~~ I think historically, that they want disarmament, period. And they reiterated that to us on several occasions.

Q. Did they mention the Chinese ~~or the French~~ nuclear tests?

(Ford)

A. No.

Q. Did they talk about their own nuclear proposal which is to destroy all nuclear weapons?

(Boggs)

Not a

A. ~~Now the~~ new proposal, we made it back in the days of ~~Bernard Baruch~~ in 1946.



(Ford)

A. They did say that under no circumstances would their development (and this has been said many times) that they would never use it on a first-strike basis.

Q. question muffled

(Ford)

A. No, they did not.

Q. Anything about the ships, -----~~the~~ ships ~~was~~ shelled as a result of ~~lighters~~----- bringing supplies to ~~XXXXXX~~ North Vietnam?
-----.

Q. In answer to your previous question/they showed skepticism about the Moscow agreement on nuclear restraint, the ABM and the technical agreement.
about disarmament,

(Boggs)

A. I wouldn't say that they showed skepticism. They, in answer to a specific question, they approved. But as for general disarmament without the participation of all nations of the world they ~~XXX~~ showed considerable ~~XXX~~ skepticism.

(Ford)

A. They just think it should be on a broad, broad basis, including all weapons. Not only are they against further development, they're for the destruction of many of the weapons that ~~XXXXXX~~ are already in being and deployed.

Q. Congressman, could you ----- us on the basis of your conversation with ~~XXXX~~ the leaders in Peking and Taiwan -----
----- in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the



the United States and ~~the mainland~~. Or do you believe now that this problem can be ~~satisfied~~ ^{satisfied,} ~~or even in the absence of an ultimate resolution of the problems of Taiwan~~ ^{that} ~~and~~ diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking could be established?

(Boggs)

A. Well, I have two impressions. The first is that this is indeed one of the top ~~XX~~ difficulties with respect to normalization of relations between the United States and the Peoples Republic of China. The second is it is their feeling as I understood that this is a matter that can be worked out between the Peoples Republic of China and Taiwan.

Q. How?

(Ford)

A. But they did not trust us in trying to give an answer or a key to this current difficulty for the total normalization of our relations with the Peoples Republic of China.

(Boggs)

A. Correct. They did not trust.

Q. Congressman Ford, did you see any ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ possibility of armed ~~---conflict---~~ between Communist China and the Soviet Union?

(Ford)

A. We did not engage in any discussions ⁱⁿ ~~say~~ that kind of detail. We recognize they have differences they indicated, which is a fact that they have differences, but as to the imminence or the possibility, ~~they~~ there was no discussion.

(Boggs)

A. Well, as a matter of fact, the deputy foreign minister~~X~~ said that the discussions were by word of mouth and by writings. I certainly have heard little any indications of any armed conflict~~s~~.

Q. Congressman Boggs, may I pose a political question to you since you are ~~YANK PARTY~~ one of your Party's leaders.

(Boggs)

A. Q. You mean a Chinese political question.

Q. No sir, its about -----

(Boggs)

A. Well I would be glad to hold a press conference about that but not at this ~~one~~ time.

Newsman: Thank you, sir.

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