

**The original documents are located in Box 21, “12/4/75 - Remarks Upon Proposing a Toast in Honor of Chinese Officials at a Return Banquet in Peking, China” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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PRESIDENT'S TOAST AT RETURN BANQUET

DECEMBER 4, 1975

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 YOU A WARM WELCOME.

TOMORROW MORNING WE LEAVE CHINA. IT HAS BEEN A

SIGNIFICANT VISIT.

THE WIDE-RANGING TALKS WHICH 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 CIRCUM-

STANCES DIVERGE. BUT WE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT WE HAVE

IMPORTANT COMMON POINTS.

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.

OUR BILATERAL TIES ARE 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 THOSE TRAVELING WITH US,

FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY 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 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:  
(DUNG-SEE-OW PING)

~~END OF TEXT~~

-- TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHINESE FRIENDS HERE TONIGHT;

-- TO THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND CHINESE  
PEOPLE.

END