

The original documents are located in Box 29, “4/14/76 - Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Thomas S. Gates, Jr., Chief, U.S. Liaison Office, People's Republic of China” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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REMARKS AT SWEARING-IN OF THOMAS S. GATES, JR.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1976

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN GATES SWEARING IN CEREMONY

AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GATES AND FAMILY

SECRETARY KISSINGER

AMBASSADOR HAN

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

DIRECTOR BUSH

*V. P. / Rumsfeld
Secretary*

LET ME WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THIS CEREMONY
CONFERRING ON TOM GATES THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR /
AS HE ASSUMES THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF OUR LIAISON OFFICE
IN PEKING. THIS IS A MEASURE OF THE IMPORTANCE
THAT WE ATTACH TO OUR GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

TOM IS INHERITING A WELL ESTABLISHED TRADITION
OF EXCELLENCE IN HIS NEW POSITION - A TRADITION EXEMPLIFIED
SO WELL BY HIS PREDECESSORS - AMBASSADORS DAVID BRUCE
AND GEORGE BUSH.

THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IN WHICH AMBASSADOR GATES WILL

PLAY A VITAL ROLE IS NOW WELL UNDERWAY.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENCES WHICH NEITHER SIDE ATTEMPTS

TO HIDE, BUT WE ALSO SHARE MANY IMPORTANT INTERESTS WHICH

PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR A DURABLE AND GROWING RELATIONSHIP.

THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES, NOW IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, WE ARE NOW ABLE TO
STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION AND PARALLEL ACTION
ON MANY GLOBAL ISSUES.

WE SHARE A COMMON CONCERN THAT THE WORLD REMAIN FREE FROM
DOMINATION BY MILITARY FORCE OR INTIMIDATION, AND THAT ALL
NATIONS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP ALONG THEIR OWN
UNIQUE PATHS.

AT THE SAME TIME, BOTH SIDES UNDERSTAND
THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION
OF RELATIONS THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS BASED ON THE
SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

I STRESSED IN MY SPEECH IN HONOLULU LAST DECEMBER, JUST
AFTER RETURNING FROM PEKING, THE DETERMINATION OF MY
ADMINISTRATION TO COMPLETE THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS.

THIS WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF OUR TWO PEOPLES, AND
CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF A MORE STABLE WORLD ORDER.

TOM GATES HAS A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED RECORD
OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE
GLOBAL CONCERNS OF THE UNITED STATES. DURING HIS TENURE
AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, HE FULLY REALIZED THAT AMERICA
MUST PURSUE A POLICY OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH.

THE SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH THE UNITED STATES
FACES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY SUBTLE AND COMPLEX
SINCE THE PERIOD OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR --
WHEN WE SERVED TOGETHER IN THE NAVY.

3 1/2 yrs ago

THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE TO ADAPT ITS FOREIGN POLICY
TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES; AND OUR PURSUIT OF A
CONSTRUCTIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC / REMAINS A CARDINAL ELEMENT
IN OUR EFFORTS TO ADJUST TO THIS MORE COMPLEX WORLD.

AS YOU PREPARE TO DEPART FOR PEKING, TOM,
I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB
OF REPRESENTING THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

DURING YOUR TENURE IN PEKING, YOU WILL ADD ANOTHER
CHAPTER OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE RECORD OF OUR LIAISON
OFFICE AND TO SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK OUR CHIEF OF PROTOCOL,
HENRY CATTO (CAT - O) TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE.

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