

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: LES JANKA *for*
SUBJECT: Morning Press Items

1. Taiwan- Nuclear Reprocessing:

Guidance: We will not comment on leaked intelligence reports. I suggest you check with State Department on details of our Nuclear cooperation program with ROC.

F.Y.I. ONLY : The stories are not true: we have no evidence Taiwan is reprocessing Nuclear fuel. State will put story down, which is very complex, but do so in a way which constitutes a strong warning to Taiwan not to fool with fuel.

2. Uranium Price fixing?

Guidance: The matter is under investigation by the Justice Department. Refer questions to Justice.

3. Korea - human rights?

Question: Sec. 412 of the Security Assistance Bill, signed on June 30, requires the President to convey to Korea in 60 days the strong concern of Congress over human rights abuses in Korea. Did you meet the Aug. 30 deadline?

Guidance: This Congressional mandate has been carried out by the Department of State, but I am not going to discuss the details of our communications with Korea on this subject.

F.Y.I. : Refer to State any questions about a follow up to the meeting Saturday of the Military Armistice Commission. It was agreed to meet at a lower level to work out details of separating UN and North Korean forces in the Joint Security Area.

4. Kissinger meeting with Vorster:

F.Y.I. : State will announce at noon today that the Secretary
ONLY will meet with South African Prime Minister in
Zurich on September 6.

5. Arab Boycott :

(If asked about the Evans & Novak column today)

Guidance: I have little new to say on this subject. Administration witnesses have frequently testified to the fact that we consider such legislation as unnecessary and unwarranted.

because of G.P.'s 2x disapproval Nov 20. Real solution to Arab with
(If asked whether the Administration is considering a compromise with Congress on the Ribicoff or Stevenson amendments, you should only say that we consider any legislation unnecessary and that Administration representatives will be following closely the progress of this legislation as it moves through Congress.)

6. Law of the Sea Talks:

(If asked for reaction to today's New York Times Editorial)

Guidance: No comment on those editorial views. President Ford is following closely the negotiations in New York because he is aware of their great importance. He has asked Secretary Kissinger to personally attend the talks again this week, Wednesday -- Thursday, to further the negotiations.

7. Readout of Scranton Meeting:

The President met with Ambassador to the UN William Scranton for 30 minutes today to review a range of issues for the upcoming UN General Assembly Session (opens Sept. 27) and other UN Committee meetings. [Among the subjects discussed were Puerto Rico, the Korean situation, Southern African issues, and UN membership for Vietnam.]

F.Y.I.: You are not prepared to discuss details of these issues and with regard to Vietnam, particularly, our position on membership will be made known at an appropriate time.

Alleged Reprocessing on Taiwan

1. Q: The Sunday Washington Post has a story alleging that the USG has intelligence that Taiwan is secretly reprocessing spent nuclear fuel at an undisclosed facility on Taiwan. According to today's New York Times, US officials have confirmed this report. Can you comment on this?

A. The Department does not comment on alleged intelligence reports. The ROC is a party to the Non-proliferation Treaty and has repeatedly stated that it will live up to its commitments under this Treaty. We fully expect it to do so.
2. Q: Is Taiwan currently producing plutonium through reprocessing of spent fuels?

A. For the past several years the ROC has been constructing a small reprocessing laboratory for research purposes. This laboratory has been declared to the IAEA and is covered by IAEA safeguards. It is our understanding that it is not yet operational.
3. Q: But the Washington Post story alleges that reprocessing is being accomplished secretly at other facilities. Is that true?

A. As I noted earlier, the Department does not comment on alleged intelligence reports.
4. Q: The Washington Post story implies that the US has adopted a relatively passive attitude toward ROC nuclear activities. Is this true?

A. We have discussed this subject with ROC officials on several occasions over the past few years and are confident that the ROC is well aware of our strong opposition to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the spread of national reprocessing plants. The ROC is equally aware that any activities which run counter to the US policy would involve serious consequences.

5. Q. The Washington Post alleges that the US is holding up approval of two nuclear power plants because of concern about reprocessing. Is this true?

A. The ROC request for power plant reactors #5 and 6 are under review and a decision is still pending. This is customarily a time-consuming process.

6. Q. Can you comment on the Washington Post's allegation that a ROC scientist was trained in reprocessing technology at the Argonne Laboratory last year.

A. We understand that a ROC scientist did research at the Argonne Laboratory on the use of plutonium in the fast breeder reactor process. The program was authorized by ERDA and it is in a better position to deal with details on this matter.

US TO QUIT QUEMOY AND MATSU

The facts:

The decision to pull our "forces" off Quemoy and Matsu was made in a defense manpower study in 1974 and approved by the JCS on March 26, 1975.

There are three people on Quemoy and three on Matsu. In each case, there is a complement of one MAAG officer and two enlisted Army communications personnel. The three on Matsu left June 2; those on Quemoy left June 15.

The total MAAG force on Taiwan is 60 people of which 43 are military, 5 are civilian, and 12 are local nationals.

The total military presence on Taiwan is about 2300 (down from 10,000 in 1972).

Q: Is the force reduction on Quemoy and Matsu on indication of our policy to normalize relations with the PRC?

A: The decision to remove the 6 personnel from Quemoy and Matsu was based on an ~~Administration~~ ^{JCS} Joint Manpower Program study of Nov. 1974. The Officers left earlier this month.

Q: Does this reduction signify a change in our relations with the Republic of China.

A: No our relations with the ROC continue as they were.

Q: What about normalizing our relations with the PRC.

A: We are still committed to the Shanghai Communique, but we have no timetable or format established for completion of the normalization process.

GREENER

THE STORY OBVIOUSLY REFERS TO THE REMOVAL OF THE TWO MAAG OFFICERS AND FOUR COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS ON THE OFF SHORE ISLANDS. ON JUNE 15 ONE OFFICER AND TWO COMMUNICATORS ASSIGNED TO QUEMOY DEPARTED THE ISLAND. ON JUNE 2 ONE MAAG OFFICER AND TWO COMMUNICATORS DEPARTED MATSU. THE ACTION WAS APPROVED BY THE JCS ON MARCH 26, 1975, AND WAS AN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAAG'S JOINT MANPOWER PROGRAM OF NOV. 27, 1974.

MAAG ON TAIWAN - 60 (43 U.S. MILITARY, 5 U.S. CIVILIANS, 12 LOCALS)

TOTAL - 2,000 U.S. MILITARY ON TAIWAN.

U. S. FUNERAL DELEGATION

Q. Who is the United States sending to Taiwan for the funeral of Chiang Kai Shek, and when will the funeral be?

A. We are in the process of forming the delegation. When the members have been selected we will announce them. The funeral will take place on April 16. Delegations ~~have been asked to~~ ^{will probably} arrive in Taiwan by April 15.

FYI ONLY: Present plans call for Secretary Butz to head the delegation. Other members will be Senator Goldwater, Congressman Clement Zablocki, (D - Wisc.), former Congressman Walter Judd, and Mrs. Anna Chennault, widow of General Claire Chennault. Other members are being considered.

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August 12, 1976

PRC - TAIWAN TALKS

Q. According to Senator Scott, the PRC is ready at any time to talk to representatives of Taipei and to trade with Taiwan. What is the President's opinion on this?

A. Our position on this issue is stated in the Shanghai Communique. I would have no further comment.

Q. Did Senator Scott say this to the President during their talk last week?

A. It would be inappropriate for me to discuss the content of a private meeting between the President and Senator Scott.

Q. Do we have any indication that the Chinese are willing to talk and trade with Taiwan?

A. I don't think it appropriate for me to interpret the meaning of Chinese statements.

~~Q. Congressman Wolff issued a report urging early diplomatic recognition of Peking without abandonment of Taiwan. What is the President's view of this?~~

~~A. In pursuing normalization of relations with Peking we have always behaved responsibly on matters affecting Taiwan and we will, of course, continue to do so.~~

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Ron - phoned over from
State at noon:

4 Aug 76

IF PRESSED ON US SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN?

A: ~~The question of~~ Our policy of self-sufficiency is a long-standing one not relating solely to the Republic of China and is in keeping with our general policy of encouraging greater self-reliance among countries with which we have defense relationships. The fact that we continue to have a mutual security treaty with the Republic of China speaks for itself. There is no need for constant reaffirmation by every one of our security commitments. In any event, the President and secretary Kissinger have continually referred to the need for maintaining a strong Asian posture.

4 August 1976

US ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN AND RELATED QUESTIONS

Q: Is it true, as Les Gelb contends in his August 4 article in the New York Times, that the Ford Administration has designed its arms sales program for Taiwan so that the island can defend itself without US participation against an attack from the PRC? Will the US abrogate its Mutual Security Treaty with Taiwan when it normalizes relations with Peking? Would the US defend Taiwan if the mainland attacked it?

In response to all these questions, say repeatedly that:] ^

A: / The US policy with respect to this matter has been stated many times by the President. We are committed to full formalization of relations with the People's Republic of China. Neither the timing nor the modalities of this process are fixed. Our policy continues to be based on the implementation of the Shanghai Communique. (This policy was most recently reaffirmed by Secretary Kissinger in his July 22 speech in Seattle)

CHOU EN LAI'S DEATH

BACKGROUND:

Despite front-page eulogies to Chou, lowering of the PRC flag to half-mast is, as yet, the only sign in Peking of Official mourning. Our Liaison Office notes that government offices remain open and residents are going about their daily routine.

See attached cables for additional details.

Q. What, in addition, can you tell us about Chou En-Lai's death? How were we informed of the death?

A. All I can tell you is that Peking's New China News Agency Domestic Service carried the text of an obituary notice on the death as issued by the CCP Central Committee, the NPC Standing Committee and the State Council. The obituary stated that Chou died at 9:47 a. m., Peking time on January 8th in Peking of cancer at the age of 78.

Q. What changes do we expect to see how in the government and leadership in the PRC?

A. I would not want to speculate or attempt to comment at this time on any changes in the internal situation in the People's Republic. Let me say that we do not expect any change in our relationship with China.

Q. Who, from the United States, will attend the funeral?

A. We are not certain, as yet, of the Chinese plans for the funeral, or whether foreign delegations will be received.

Q. To whom will messages of condolence be sent?

A. The President will be sending messages of condolence to Chairman Mao tse-tung, to Chu Teh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and to Madame Chou.

FYI ONLY:

The President is sending a letter of thanks to Teng for his hospitality during the recent trip to China, in which condolences' are included. END FYI ONLY

NOTE:

U. S. Acting Chief of Mission in Peking is Harry Thayer.

REAGAN CHARGE OF INTENTION TO
SEVER RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN

Q: What is your response to allegations made before the Lester Wolff Subcommittee of the House Foreign Relations Committee That the Administration intends to establish full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and sever ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan after the fall elections?

A: The President has stated publicly on numerous occasions -- as in his speech at Honolulu on December 7 -- that he believes it is vital to the future well being of this country that we establish a fully normal relationship with the People's Republic of China. However,

there is no timetable nor even an understanding regarding the modality

by which the United States will normalize its relations with the People's

Republic of China. ~~There are no so-called "preconditions"~~

~~with Taiwan as a precondition.~~

If pushed: The President is well aware that normalization will affect the interests of a number of our close friends and allied in the international community. He feels equally strong that these interests and concerns must be given the utmost respect as we proceed in our dealings with Peking. We cannot expect to build a most secure world by compromising the security of others.

4. Do you have any comment on the Senate vote to repeal the 1955 Taiwan resolution? Does this indicate a lessening of US commitments to Taiwan?

Guidance: The repeal of this resolution does not affect our defense commitment to Taiwan. Our defense commitment to the Republic of China is set forth in the Mutual Defense Treaty which entered into force in 1955.

(FYI: Refer any detailed questions on this subject to State.)

BACK UP QUESTIONS ON CHOU EN-LAI

Q. What in addition can you tell us about Chou en-lai's death? How were we informed of the death?

A. All I can tell you is that Peking's New China News Agency Domestic Service carried the text of an obituary notice on the death as issued by the CCP Central Committee, the NPC Standing Committee and the State Council. The obituary stated that Chou died at 9:47 a.m. Peking time on January 8th in Peking of cancer at the age of 78.

Q. What changes do we expect to see now in the government and leadership in the PRC?

A. I would not want to speculate or attempt to comment at this time on any changes in the internal situation in the Peoples Republic.