

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

THE BRIEFING ROOM

12:40 P.M. EDT

The People's Republic of China announced today the passing away of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Chairman Mao was a giant figure in modern Chinese history.

He was a leader whose actions profoundly affected the development of his own country. His influence on history will extend far beyond the borders of China.

Americans will remember that it was under Chairman Mao that China moved together with the United States to end a generation of hostility and to launch a new and more positive era in relations between our two countries.

I am confident that the trend of improved relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States, which Chairman Mao helped to create, will continue to contribute to world peace and stability.

On behalf of the United States Government and the American people, I offer condolences to the Government and to the people of the People's Republic of China.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 12:42 P.M. EDT)