

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “People's Republic of China - Premier Hua Kuo-feng” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

1A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1/23/75

Mrs. Davis,

Please make limited access form
for NSC/S. I have Hak chron cy,
Solomon has his info cy. Cable
given to Sit. Rm. 1/23/75 at 6:00 pm.

Thanks!

-KM

E.O.
to Ed White's
file



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1975

Dear Mr. Premier:

Please accept my congratulations on your appointment by the Fourth Session of the National People's Congress as Premier of the People's Republic of China.

I look forward to meeting with you later this year to discuss matters of common concern and interest. While, as you noted in your report to the Congress, fundamental differences remain between our two countries, I remain hopeful that through common efforts we can overcome these differences and advance the cause of normalizing Sino-American relations and thus fulfill the joint commitment expressed in the Shanghai Communique of 1972.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

His Excellency
Chou En-lai
Premier of the People's
Republic of China
Peking



TO.

NSC/5

Solomon hand delivered

Presidential letter to PRC Liaison
Office on 23 Jan.

Pat



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. GEORGE S. SPRINGSTEEN
Executive Secretary
Department of State

SUBJECT: Pres ltr to Chou En-lai of PRC dated
January 23, 1975.

REFERENCE: _____

The attached document is transmitted for
classification processing/forwarding as may be
required.

The attached letter is sent for your information.

J. W. Davis
for JEANNE W. DAVIS
Staff Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTIONSECRET/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT: A Message of Congratulations to
PRC Premier Chou En-lai

Chou En-lai's recent reappointment to the Premiership of the People's Republic of China presents an appropriate occasion for you to send the Premier a message of congratulations. Chou sent you a congratulatory letter in August in response to a message you sent Chairman Mao affirming your Administration's commitment to the Shanghai Communique.

The attached draft message echos Chou's speech to the National People's Congress, in which the Premier refers to the existence of "fundamental differences" between the PRC and the U.S. Your reply is intended to convey the implication that it will take joint efforts to overcome these differences if we are to make further progress in normalizing Sino-American relations. I believe this is the most effective posture for you to adopt in advance of your trip to Peking later this year.

The letter at Tab A has been cleared with Paul Theis.

Recommendation:

That you sign the letter to Premier Chou En-lai at Tab A.

SECRET/SENSITIVE

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY *ld*, NARA, DATE *3/9/04*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

January 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: RICHARD H. SOLOMON *RHS*

SUBJECT: A Presidential Message of Congratulations
to Chou En-lai

Chou En-lai's reappointment by the National People's Congress as Premier of the PRC raises the question of whether or not the President should send him a message of congratulations. State has drafted messages of congratulations on your behalf to Chou, as well as to Teng Hsiao-p'ing, Ch'iao Kuan-hua, and Yeh Chien-ying. I have coordinated the wording of the attached drafts with the PRC Desk at State, in addition to clearing them with Paul Theis.

In protocol terms, it would be quite appropriate for the President to send Chou a message of congratulations. Indeed, it would probably be viewed by the PRC as a slight for him not to do so. However, there are a number of political dimensions to such a message worthy of consideration, particularly as they relate to the posture you feel it is most appropriate for the President to adopt in advance of his trip to Peking later this year, and the state of our discussions with the Chinese on the matter of normalization of relations.

It might be argued that we should reserve the President's authority for all but the central issues in our relations with Peking. This is certainly the posture the PRC has adopted in the way it has invoked Chairman Mao's authority in dealings with us. After the President's inauguration in August, for example, Mr. Ford sent a personal message to Chairman Mao affirming his Administration's commitment to the policies of President Nixon as they related to China. Mao did not reply directly to the President, however. Chou En-lai responded to Mr. Ford on behalf of himself and the Chairman. In a sense the Chinese sought to bring the President "down" to the level of the Premier. [On the other hand, of course, Mao does not hold a state position in the PRC, and in protocol terms the reply from Chou can be considered correct.]

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY *[Signature]*, NARA, DATE *3/9/04*

A more political perspective on this matter is the current state of our relations with Peking, and the signal you wish to send on the issue of normalization. Chou En-lai's political report to the National People's Congress contained a rather aloof, almost "wait and see" attitude regarding U.S.- PRC relations. He noted that "fundamental differences" remain between us, but said that because of "joint efforts" by both sides relations have improved "to some extent" in the last three years. He then asserted that our relations will continue to improve "so long as the principles of the Sino-American Shanghai Communique are carried out in earnest." There is something of an edge of the "you owe us a debt" line in his formulation -- as Teng Hsiao-p'ing explicitly asserted to you during your November trip.

For reasons of tactical effect you may not wish to have the President adopt too warm or forthcoming a posture toward Chou in advance of his Peking trip. This could also be a way of conveying our concern about the way the PRC has increasingly characterized us in terms equivalent to the USSR. Chou's Congress speech, for example, asserted that "the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are the biggest international oppressors and exploiters today, and they are the source of a new world war."

The draft message of congratulations at Tab B seeks to convey a formally correct and politically neutral tone. The second message, at Tab A, conveys a more reserved effect by referring to Chou's remark about remaining differences between the U.S. and PRC, and by implying that it will require joint efforts to overcome our differences if we are to complete the normalization of relations.

My personal recommendation would be to use the more aloof message at Tab A.

These messages are covered by a memo from you to the President at Tab I.

Recommendation:

That you forward to the President the message at Tab A by signing the memorandum at Tab I.

*Tabs I and
A forwarded
0830 11/23/75
RCM*



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1/20/75

JS 1/20/75

Paul Theis:

Attached for your clearance is
a Presidential letter to Chou En-lai
congratulating him on his reappoint-
ment as Premier of the People's
Republic of China.

Dick Solomon
ext. 3505

JAN 20 PM 5 18

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Premier:

Please accept my congratulations on your reappointment by the Fourth Session of the National People's Congress as Premier of the People's Republic of China. I look forward to meeting with you later this year to discuss matters of common concern and interest, including further steps toward normalization of relations between our two countries on the basis of the principles laid down in the Shanghai Communique.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Chou En-lai
Premier of the People's
Republic of China
Peking

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Jack Murphy

Will you sort this out with Dick Brown, please. The message went to the TT for sig. under a routine log # -- 387. For some reason, the log. con-
taining the text went separately under 471X.

I think the whole thing should be combined under 387 ~~TT~~ of copy of message sent to State -
and

MEMORANDUM

471X
(NSC Log Nbr)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

LIMITED ACCESS CONTROL FORM (LAC)

CLASSIFICATION: _____
(Use std abbr)

CLASSIFIED BY: _____
(Enter only when originated in NSC)

EXEMPT GDS: SB _____ SB2 _____ SB3 _____ SB4 _____ Exempt Yr: _____
(These entries to be used only on NSC originated material)

SUBJECT: _____

FOR INCOMING MATERIAL:

TO _____ FROM: _____ DATE _____

NSC STAFFER FOR ACTION: _____ ACTION RQD: _____

NSC STAFFER(S) FOR INFO: _____; _____; _____

REFERENCE NERS ON INCOMING DOCUMENT IF ANY: _____

INDEX TERMS (Include, if applicable NSSM/NSDM #, Country(s) and/or Subject. ("Subject" will be modified to "nearest" approved category for computer input)):

_____; _____; _____
_____; _____; _____

INTERIM MOVEMENT (i.e. FROM EOB TO WH OR REDO STATUS):

TO _____ FROM(staffers) _____ DATE: _____

ACTION RQD IN WH: _____
(please indicate if only INFO or specify other rqmt)

CLOSE OUT (FINAL ACTION):

ACTION TAKEN: *was sent to O&O Petain* DATE: *1-23-75*

DISPATCHED TO: _____ COPIES FOR: *Simon*

FILED WITH: *to file*

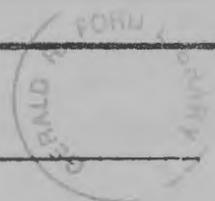
LOG NBR

CLASSIFICATION

BASIC LOGGING/INDEXING INFORMATION

INTERIM

CLOSE OUT/FINAL ACTION



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VIA VOYAGER CHANNEL

TO: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE
USLO PEKING

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *10*
THE WHITE HOUSE

1. Please deliver to the Foreign Ministry the following message of congratulations from the President for Premier Chou En-lai *at* by opening of business tomorrow.

2. Dear Mr. Premier:

Please accept my congratulations on your appointment by the Fourth Session of the National People's Congress as Premier of the People's Republic of China.

I look forward to meeting with you later this year to discuss matters of common concern and interest. While, as you noted in your report to the Congress, fundamental differences remain between our two countries, I remain hopeful that through common efforts we can overcome these differences and advance the cause of normalizing Sino-American relations and thus fulfill the joint commitment expressed in the Shanghai Communique of 1972.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY *len*, NARA, DATE *3/9/04*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

His Excellency
Chou En-lai
Premier of the People's
Republic of China
Peking

3. The signed copy of this message will be delivered to
PRCLO here.

4. Warm regards.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: RICHARD H. SOLOMON *RS*

SUBJECT: Backchannel to USLO

Attached is a backchannel message to John Holdridge at USLO in Peking (George Bush has already departed the capital) asking Holdridge to deliver the President's message of congratulations to Chou En-lai.

I will pass the hard copy of the message to the PRC Liaison Office as soon as the President has signed it.

Recommendation:

That you sign the message at Tab A.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY *lka*, NARA, DATE *3/9/04*

100
Mrs D

Note

- 1) This did not originate w/ State.
- 2) The ltr to Chow was "delivered" by Solomon..

PROBLEM

- A. Did Solomon tell State?
- B. Should State rec ag?
- C. Should you do chit to Franconi?

or I

NOISE OF ABOVE

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	7500387		
1	20	1	24	10			

Solomon

17

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: ~~KISSINGER, H~~ _____ S/S _____ REFERENCE: _____ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE
 KISSINGER *** _____ COLBY, W _____ OTHER _____ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT
 SCOWCROFT _____ SCHLESINGER, J _____ C EYES ONLY EXDIS
 DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC _____ (S) CODEWORD
 (TS) SENSITIVE

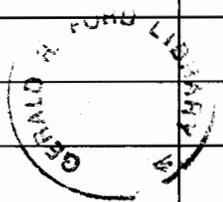
SUBJECT: *a Yes Message of Congratulation to Chau En-lai*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK (_____)
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES (_____)
FAR EAST <i>Solomon</i>			<i>XL</i>	REPLY FOR (_____)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION (_____)
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO _____ TO _____ (_____)
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS (_____)
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO (_____)
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR: (_____)
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? (_____)
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE (_____)
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: _____
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS) <i>Solomon advise that cy only of ltr need go to State 1-24-75</i>
CONGRESSIONAL				
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN)	CY TO
<i>1/20</i>		<i>HAK</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Yes to go ltr to Chau En-lai (1-27)</i>	
<i>1/23</i>	<i>PRES</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>390 ltr to CHOU EN-LAI</i>	
<i>1/23</i>	<i>NSC/13</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Pres 390 ltr TO CHOU EN-LAI</i>	



NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH *done by Solomon*
 CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: *Richard Leonard, State Secretary*
 NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION: *TO STATE 1/24 BTM*
 CROSS REF W/ _____
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: *X* FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE FRONT: *JAN 20 1975*
 SA SF
 HP NS
 WH EP
 PA DY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*
SUBJECT: Chou En-lai's Message of Appreciation to You *MR 7*

On February 21, I called in Ambassador Huang Chen, Chief of the Liaison Office of the People's Republic of China, for a brief review of the results of my recent trip to the Middle East and the discussion with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Geneva.

During the meeting Ambassador Huang asked me to transmit to you a letter of appreciation from Premier Chou En-lai in response to your letter to Chou of January 23 congratulating him on his reappointment as Premier of the State Council by the Fourth National People's Congress.

Chou's letter, at Tab A, conveys a friendly if somewhat reserved air. It expresses welcome in anticipation of your visit to Peking later this year, and expresses the hope that there will be continuous improvement in U.S.-PRC relations on the basis of earnest implementation of the principles of the Shanghai Communique.

I received a similarly worded note of appreciation from Foreign Minister Ch'iao Kuan-hua, who also expressed interest in the discussions which will be held later in the year.

We will, of course, be taking a hard look at the various political issues which might be put on the agenda of your discussions in Peking some months in advance of the China summit meeting, perhaps in a trip which I might make to the PRC shortly after the anticipated Brezhnev visit.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY bb, NARA, DATE 2/9/04

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Translation)

Peking, February 19, 1975

Mr. Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States
of America

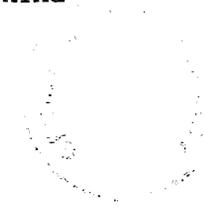
Respected Mr. President:

I wish to express my thanks for your letter of congratulations on my appointment as Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China by the Fourth National People's Congress.

We welcome you to visit our country this year and exchange views on matters of common interest. We hope that the relations between China and the United States will improve continuously on the basis of earnest implementation of the principles of the Shanghai Communique.

With my best wishes,

Chou En-lai
Premier of the State Council of
the People's Republic of China



美利坚合众国总统杰拉尔德·福特先生

尊敬的福特总统：

在我被第四届全国人民代表大会任命为中华人民共和国国务院总理的时候，承蒙来信祝贺，谨致谢意。

我们欢迎你今年来我国访问，就共同关心的问题交换意见。我们希望，中美两国关系能在认真执行上海公报各项原则的基础上不断改善。

顺致最良好的祝愿。

中华人民共和国国务院总理 周恩来

一九七五年二月十九日于北京

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION*Tab I fwd'd*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 24, 1975

3/3/75

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: RICHARD H. SOLOMON *RHS*

SUBJECT: Chou En-lai's Message of Appreciation
to President Ford

During your meeting of February 21 with PRCLO Chief Huang Chen, Huang transmitted to you a letter of appreciation from Premier Chou En-lai in response to the President's letter of congratulations sent to Chou after his reappointment by the National People's Congress as Premier of the PRC.

At Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President transmitting Chou's letter. The memorandum notes that the letter of appreciation is one of a number of indications that the Chinese are apparently seeking to establish a friendly -- if somewhat reserved -- atmosphere in advance of the President's trip to the PRC. You note, however, that there will have to be a hard-headed review of the political issues which will be put on the agenda of the President's visit some months before the actual trip, presumably in a planning visit which you would make sometime after the Soviet summit meeting during the summer.

Recommendation:

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY *DA*, NARA, DATE *3/9/04*

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR			
2	24	2	24	10	17	5	1174

26

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: Solomon KISSINGER, H _____ S/S _____ REFERENCE: _____ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE
 KISSINGER F _____ COLBY, W _____ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT
 SCOWCROFT _____ SCHLESINGER, J _____ OTHER _____ LOU NO FORN NODIS
 DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC _____ S _____ C EYES ONLY EXDIS
 TS S CODEWORD
 TS SENSITIVE

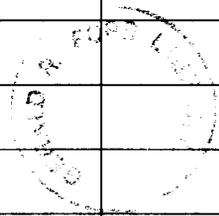
SUBJECT: Chou En-lai, Mao of PRC
Appreciation to Pres of PRC

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION		REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO	
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT			MEMO FOR HAK ()
STAFF SECRETARY			MEMO FOR PRES ()
FAR EAST <u>Solomon</u>		<u>A</u>	REPLY FOR ()
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			APPROPRIATE ACTION ()
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA			MEMO TO ()
EUROPE / CANADA			RECOMMENDATIONS ()
LATIN AMERICA			JOINT MEMO ()
UNITED NATIONS			REFER TO FOR: ()
ECONOMIC			ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ()
SCIENTIFIC			CONCURRENCE ()
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			DUE DATE:
NSC PLANNING			COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL			
OCEANS POLICY			
INTELLIGENCE			

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
<u>2/24</u>		<u>HAK</u>	<u>CH</u>	<u>See for info (3-4)</u>	
<u>3/4</u>		<u>NSC/KS</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Noted by Pres</u>	



NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH _____
 CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____
 NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____
 CROSS REF W/ _____ ✓
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: _____ FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:	
M/F'D _____	BY _____
OPEN <u>TH</u>	SA SF
CLOSE <u>TH</u>	HP NS
	WH EP
	PA <u>D</u> DY