

Ed

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Wednesday - July 23, 1975
3:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Miller's Visit to the PRC

President: How long were you there?

Miller: About 10 days. I was there three years ago and made an exchange agreement. They have access to everything we produce there and they distribute it around hotels, etc. It is working well.

I have just a few items.

On the leadership style -- I had been dealing with Chou En-lai. He would never concede everything wasn't hunky-dory. The little guy who is moving up [Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping] is the size of Mayor Beame and very articulate. On Taiwan, no one said they would take it over by force. Teng said they were not in a hurry. They said they hope you will bring something on Taiwan but they will be happy if you don't bring a thing.

Teng was almost killed during the Cultural Revolution but is now the first Deputy Premier.

George Bush treats them all like Texans.

President: How is he getting along?

Miller: As well as can be expected.



~~TOP SECRET~~
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KRIBINSER

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES *state review 2/10/04*
BY *SA* NARA DATE *5/21/04*

On the Soviet Union, Teng said the Soviets are warmongers. He said they were ready if the Soviets wanted to start something. There are much better hotel accommodations than three years ago. The beer is new -- not just tea. They are still as honest as they were before. The Watergate stuff seems to roll right off their backs. They pay no attention to it.

They are in general opening up -- they are more relaxed.

There is more western food.

Lovers are back. Mao several years ago tried to get boys and girls to wait until they were 25 or 26 for marriage. Three years ago there was not even hand-holding.

President: We are having two Congressional groups going next month and one went last spring. They are opening up.

I think things are on the track for a visit in late fall.

Miller: They want you out there whether you bring something or not.

President: I am looking forward to it.

Miller: The Government people see it as a mark of our interest. They are still scared to death of the Soviet Union.

President: How about the health of the leaders? I have heard that Mao's role now is strictly ceremonial and most of the time he doesn't know what is going on. Chou has a very serious heart problem.

Teng may be it next year and he won't last forever. We have got to find those who come up. We know very little about the rising age group.

Miller: I stopped in Guam. The refugees are very well cared for. It really looks good. Also there is a good golf course there. I thought it was a wonderful setup.



P/ ~~Walter~~ Paul Miller

23 July 75 ✓

P How long were you there

M About 10 days. Since then 3 yrs ago & much an exchange agreement. They have access to very things and produce them & they distribute it ~~are around~~ ^{lots, etc.} & working well.

Just a few items.

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They are in good opening up - more relaxed.

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