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OPENING REMARKS FOR THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION

Tuesday, December 2, 1975

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Great Hall of the People

Peking, People's Republic of China

From: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

[NOTE: You should be aware that the opening of each substantive session, as well as your informal welcoming session with Vice Premier Teng at the Guest House, will be covered by the traveling press pool. If the Chinese are true to form, they will drop "atmospheric" statements in the presence of the press designed to set a mood that will serve their purposes. They know that such comments will receive international attention via our media. While we obviously cannot control what Chinese leaders say in the presence of the press, you should at least keep in mind their habit of making such comments, and perhaps drop some remarks of your own in response (or at your own initiative) as you feel appropriate.]

-- Mr. Vice Premier, on behalf of my colleagues here and our entire traveling party, let me again express appreciation for the hospitable welcome you have accorded us. I know the members of the press traveling with us are also appreciative of your efforts. This is a much larger official and press delegation than you normally receive, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in making our stay a pleasant and productive one.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3
NSC Memo, 3/30/06, State Dept. Guidelines
By *WA* NARA, Date *6/24/10*



Let me also commend your Director of Protocol, Mr. Chu (pronounced JUE), and his colleagues for the outstanding degree of cooperation they accorded our advance team last month.

- It is a great pleasure to be back in Peking. I look forward to again visiting the Summer Palace and a number of other historical and production sites during the next few days. I noticed on the way in from the airport yesterday much activity at the site of an irrigation project. It is evident that the Chinese people are hard at work building their country.
- The chief purpose of my visit, however, is to hold working discussions. I believe it is important that we sustain the official dialogue started in 1971 at the highest levels of our two governments. This is the best way to share our thinking on the full range of international and bilateral issues of common concern. Our two countries clearly have their differences: in philosophy; in our social systems; and in perspectives on specific issues.

Yet we share much of importance. We are both concerned with the security of our countries. For more than twenty



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years, the United States and China went their different ways and even confronted each other on certain questions. Today, while we still have our differences, at least we are discussing them. We are no longer locked in confrontation. Neither of us threatens the security of the other; and what is more, we share certain critical interests, such as our opposition to hegemony. This is an important new context enabling us to resolve our areas of disagreement, and broaden areas of cooperation.

[Assuming that the press has left the conference room.]

-- How should we organize our three days of talks? I think there are both international and bilateral issues to be covered. It is my suggestion that we begin with some of the international questions which, as Chairman Mao told Secretary Kissinger last month, are the really big issues. I am prepared to cover the full range of international questions including the issue of hegemony and Soviet actions in various parts of the world. Although I am aware we have our disagreements regarding

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tactics on this matter, I want to understand your views better and I will discuss my approach to these problems as frankly as I can. We should also review the situation in Europe; the efforts to negotiate a settlement in the Middle East; developments in South Asia and South East Asia; and Japan and Korea.

-- While the Chairman said that the Taiwan question is a smaller issue, we recognize that this is the question that continues to obstruct full normalization, and that this is a matter of basic principle to you. I hereby reiterate our commitment to full normalization. Despite your expressions of patience on this issue, I am not complacent, for I know that it affects the overall development of our bilateral relations. We are prepared to discuss this question and certain other bilateral matters after we have covered some of the basic international questions.

-- Regarding the possibility of any public document which might be released at the end of my visit, I suggest the two Foreign Ministers get together later today on this. We are relaxed about this issue.

-- Shall we now begin with some of the international issues?

