

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

January 12, 1971

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.... ✓

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

Conversation with Ambassador Bogdan,
Map Room, January 11, 1971

Ambassador Bogdan told me that after the conversation with the President, Ceausescu sent his Vice Premier to Peking and Hanoi. In Peking he had extensive talks with Chou En-Lai. Chou En-Lai handed him the following message:

"The communication from the U.S. President is not new. There is only one outstanding issue between us -- the U.S. occupation of Taiwan. The PRC has attempted to negotiate on this issue in good faith for 15 years. If the U.S. has a desire to settle the issue and a proposal for its solution, the PRC will be prepared to receive a U.S. special envoy in Peking. This message has been reviewed by Chairman Mao and by Lin Piao."

Chou En-Lai added the comment that since President Nixon had visited Bucharest and Belgrade, he would also be welcome in Peking.

The Vice Premier found nothing new in Hanoi.

Comment: (a) The Chinese note indirectly refers to the Yahya communication. It also validates it because it is almost the same.

(b) It is free of invective.

(c) It strongly implies that the war in Vietnam is no obstacle to U.S. -Chinese rapprochement.

(d) It remains to be seen whether Peking will accept a proposal for a solution with a long time-fuse.

(e) If they answer our communication through Yahya, we may get a clue.

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I believe we may appear too eager. Let's cool it - wait for them to respond to our invitation.