

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Yeh Chien-ying, Vice Chairman, Military Affairs Commission,
Chinese Communist Party, PRC (Second Session Only)
Huang Hua, PRC Ambassador to Canada
Chang Wen-chin, Director, Western Europe and American
Department, PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tang Wen-sheng and Chi Chao-chu, Chinese Interpreters
Chinese Notetaker

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
John Holdridge, Senior Staff Member, NSC
Winston Lord, Senior Staff Member, NSC
W. Richard Smyser, Senior Staff Member, NSC

Place: Chinese Government Guest House, Peking

Date and Time: July 11, 1971, Early Morning and Morning
(12:00 midnight - 1:40 a.m.; 9:50 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.)

At the working session which began about 12:00 midnight on the night of July 10-11, both the U.S. and the PRC sides presented preliminary drafts of a joint statement announcing the visit of Dr. Kissinger and the summit meeting between President Nixon and the Chinese leaders.

Present on the Chinese side were Ambassador Huang Hua, Chang Wen-chin, and the two interpreters, Mr. Chi and Miss Tang. On the U.S. side were Dr. Kissinger and Messrs. Holdridge, Lord and Smyser.

Both sides agreed that the announcement should be kept simple. Dr. Kissinger, finding the wording of the Chinese draft in certain respects to be in accordance with what the U.S. had in mind, soon took this language as the basis of the discussions (attached at Tab C).

The first significant issue which emerged was the Chinese desire to make it appear that the President had asked for an invitation to visit China. Dr. Kissinger reminded the Chinese of the fact that it was the Chinese who had actually proposed such a visit in their communication to the U.S., although the President admittedly had commented on visiting China during a press conference. After some discussion, the Chinese agreed that there should be a mutually expressed desire for a summit.

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SUNDAY

A second issue which then arose was a proposal by Dr. Kissinger that the announcement not set the purpose of the summit meeting only as seeking the "normalization of relations" between the U.S. and the PRC. The Chinese, who had submitted this formulation, objected when Dr. Kissinger wanted to broaden the summit scope to state that the meeting would be beneficial to Asian and world peace. There was considerable discussion concerning this issue. The Chinese acknowledged that in the President's message of May 19, 1971, to Prime Minister Chou, the President had suggested that each side should be free to include topics of principal concern to it in the summit discussions. Thus, something in addition to the normalization of relations was in order.

At 1:40 a.m. the Chinese asked for a thirty minute recess to permit them to consider wording which would be responsive to these two issues. They did not, however, return that night -- at 2:55 a.m. the U.S. side was informed that they would not return until about 9:00 a.m. the next morning.

On Sunday morning, the Chinese returned at 9:50 a.m., accompanied this time by Marshal Yeh Chien-ying. (Prime Minister Chou remained outside pending approval of the draft announcement.) From the U.S. standpoint, the wording of the new Chinese draft (attached at Tab B) was a great improvement over that of the preceding day. The Chinese, on their own initiative, then changed the date for the summit from "in the spring of 1972" to "before May 1972." Dr. Kissinger said this was a better formulation. With respect to the initiative for the invitation, the Chinese draft said "in view of" President Nixon's expressed desire to visit the PRC. However, after a certain amount of give-and-take the Chinese agreed to a formulation in which Prime Minister Chou, "knowing of" the President's desire, had extended the invitation. As to the purpose of the visit, they had included in addition to seeking a normalization of relations, the phrase "and also to exchange views on questions of concern to the two sides." Dr. Kissinger said the U.S. preferred the phrase "peace in the world" but accepted the Chinese formulation since it met the principal U.S. concern of broadening the scope of the summit.

After further brief discussion the two sides agreed on an announcement in English and Chinese (attached at Tab A). In working during the night on a new draft to meet the U.S. concerns, and in the verbal exchanges at these sessions, the Chinese clearly made an effort to find mutually acceptable compromises. This attitude was reciprocated by the U.S. side.

There was a brief exchange on when the joint announcement should be made. Dr. Kissinger suggested the evening of July 15, U.S. time, while the Chinese preferred July 19. Dr. Kissinger explained that a Thursday evening announcement would allow for more intelligent coverage of the event in the American Sunday newspapers and weekly news magazines. Prime Minister Chou then entered the room to continue the discussion at 10:35 a.m.

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Announcement

Premier Chou En-lai and Dr. Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's Assistant for National Security Affairs, held talks in Peking from July 9 to 11, 1971.

Knowing of President Nixon's expressed desire to visit the People's Republic of China, Premier Chou En-lai, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, has extended an invitation to President Nixon to visit China at an appropriate date before May 1972. President Nixon has accepted this invitation with pleasure.

The meeting between the leaders of China and the United States is to seek the normalization of relations between the two countries and also to exchange views on questions of concern to the two sides.

公 告

周恩来总理和尼克松总统的国家安全事务助理基辛格博士，于一九七一年七月九日至十一日在北京进行了会谈。

获悉尼克松总统曾表示希望访问中华人民共和国，周恩来总理代表中华人民共和国政府邀请尼克松总统于一九七二年五月以前的适当时间访问中国。尼克松总统愉快地接受了这一邀请。

中美两国领导人的会晤，是为了谋求两国关系的正常化，并就双方关心的问题交换意见。

DRAFT

ANNOUNCEMENT

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In view of President Nixon's expressed desire to visit the People's Republic of China, Premier Chou En-lai, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, has extended an invitation to President Nixon to visit China in the spring of 1972. On behalf of President Nixon, Dr. Kissinger has accepted this invitation with pleasure.

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DRAFT

ANNOUNCEMENT

Premier Chou En-lai of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America, held talks in Peking from July 9 to 11, 1971.

In order to seek the normalization of the relations between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China, President Nixon has expressed the wish to meet the leaders of the People's Republic of China. The Government of the People's Republic of China welcomes and agrees to extend an invitation to President Nixon for a visit in the spring of 1972. President Nixon has accepted this invitation with pleasure.