



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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July 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: Reactions to the President's Announcement on
July 15, 1971United Nations

Secretary General U Thant said on July 15 that the President's decision to visit Peking "has opened a new chapter in the history of international relations" and that "it augurs well not only for relations between two great countries but also for the future of the UN." On July 16, U Thant issued the following statement: "It seems that the chances for the solution of the representation of China at the next session of the General Assembly are brighter in the light of the announcements in the United States and Peking last night."

Republic of China

Less than two hours after the President's statement and reportedly after a 45-minute conference of top GRC officials, Ambassador McConaughy was given an official GRC statement by acting Foreign Minister Yang which protested "in the strongest terms possible" the President's announcement and termed it "a most unfriendly act" which "will have gravest consequences." The Taiwan press has not yet commented editorially--suggesting no decision on official policy--but the full text of the President's statement and wire stories of the Kissinger-Chou meeting were run. Foreign Ministry spokesman James Wei said that the GRC had lodged a "strong protest" but would not comment further other than to say, in response to a question, that the GRC "does not expect" anti-American demonstrations. Taipei domestic radio reported the government's protest against Nixon's visit to "the area controlled by the bandits."

South Vietnam

The initial Radio Saigon report did not indicate that the President had accepted Chou's invitation, but President Thieu told Ambassador Bunker by phone a few hours later that he "welcomed" the announcement and considered it "a very constructive development." Shortly thereafter, Thieu released

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a one-sentence statement that he hoped "this could constitute a first step toward the elaboration of lasting peace for this part of the world." Radio Saigon then broadcast a GVN communique which termed the President's acceptance of Chou's invitation a manifestation of American goodwill which it hoped the PRC would reciprocate "by ceasing to invade any country" directly or through such proxies as North Vietnam. Presidential contender Duong van Minh said that "anything that will help further peace in the world is helpful," while Vice President Ky warned that the GVN must "be wise" and "timely take adequate measures to protect itself and its interests."

Cambodia

Prime Minister Delegate Sirik Matak told the Cabinet the announcement was "a good sign," but two ministers made the rhetorical point to the Embassy that they "suppose this new development will mean no change in US support for Cambodia." The French Ambassador was with Chief of State Cheng Heng when he received the news, and reports that he views the move as vindication of his own active support of negotiations for Cambodia. Cambodian UN Ambassador Delegate Truong Cang noted that a US-PRC rapprochement would "finish Sihanouk." (CONFIDENTIAL).

Laos

Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma said that he "unreservedly welcomed" the development, expressed admiration for President Nixon's skillful conduct of US policy, and characterized the proposed Peking trip as a "diplomatic coup par excellence" which, he said, would make the North Vietnamese think twice and the Russians at least once.

Thailand

Prime Minister Thanom told an impromptu news conference that the world situation would improve if the US and PRC begin talking together, but reiterated that Thailand's policy toward China would not change until PRC support for Thai Communist insurgents ended. Thai Foreign Minister Thanat, in Manila for the ASPAC meeting, is reported by Reuters as saying the President's visit to Peking could be important (to Thailand) only if it brought greater chances for peace in Southeast Asia.

Australia

Prime Minister McMahon welcomed the announcement and said normalization of relations with China had been the publicly announced policy of the Australian Government for some time. Drawing attention to President Nixon's

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statement that US actions would not be at the expense of old friends, he asserted that future Australian policies and actions would be guided by those principles. In Manila, Foreign Secretary Bury said that a large part of the world would await the outcome of Nixon's Peking visit before making any new moves in relation to China. Opposition leader Whitlam taunted the Prime Minister for once again having been bypassed and out-classed by both the US and the Labor Party, while Labor's deputy leader--noting that McMahon had criticized Labor for trying to woo China--suggested that he might now echo the words of the song "I Wonder Who's Kissinger Now" before accusing Labor of romancing with China.

New Zealand

Prime Minister Holyoake said it was heartening after so many years of estrangement that contact between the leaders of China and the US should be reestablished. He added the hope that President Nixon's initiative will give new depths to recent tendencies on the part of China toward more relaxed relations with other countries.

Japan

Acting Foreign Minister Kimura termed the President's announcement a "very good thing," and noted that the Japanese had been informed of it in advance. Though such a development was "anticipated," he commented, events had taken a "sudden turn." He felt bilateral US-PRC talks should be handled separately from the Chirep problem in the UN. The government's official spokesman issued a statement "welcoming" the decision to visit China on the grounds that "the improvement in US-China relations is contributing to the lessening of tension in Asia and also in the broader context to that of the world." Prime Minister Sato was reported to have told the press that he was not upset by the announcement, that he had expected such a development, and that President Nixon had done a fine job. Press sources also reported that the Japanese Government was "surprised and uneasy" over the announcement, and that Foreign Ministry sources reaffirmed there was no need for Japan to change its China policy in the wake of the President's announcement, since there was a "clear distinction" between Japan's policy and that of the US.

Republic of Korea

Seoul Radio reported that the Foreign Ministry's spokesman had initially termed the President's statement "shocking news." The Foreign Office official comment, however, expressed the hope that the new development in US-PRC relations would be conducive to the "restoration of peace

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and maintenance of order in Asia" and noted with particular interest the President's affirmation that the new relationship with China would not be at the expense of old friends. News of the proposed visit to Peking by the President was frontpaged in all Seoul dailies, but there has been no editorial comment so far. A spokesman for the ruling Democratic Republican Party said that the news was not surprising, but warned that "any hasty approach for rapprochement" should be handled "so as not to produce any adverse side effects."

Malaysia

The Prime Minister issued a public statement welcoming the President's statement. He expressed the hope that the US-China detente would lead to international peace and security, especially to a quick resolution of the Indochina conflict. He reiterated Malaysia's belief "that China should be brought into the international order particularly in Asia and play her rightful role in maintaining peace and security." He added that the President's announcement was an encouraging step towards the neutralization of Southeast Asia, which Malaysia has advocated for some time.

Philippines

Foreign Secretary Romulo said the President's announcement constituted an endorsement of the Philippine stand in favor of a more flexible attitude toward the China question.

USSR

TASS international and domestic service has reported President Nixon's acceptance of Prime Minister Chou En-Lai's invitation, citing both Peking and Washington as sources. The report said that "Nixon motivated his decision by the desire to establish new relations with the People's Republic of China," but did not mention the President's statement that his trip to the PRC is not directed against any other nation. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

East Berlin

A domestic broadcast said that President Nixon "emphasized repeatedly" that his visit to China would be for "the sake of peace," but did not mention the "most important point in this respect:" when US troops would be withdrawn from Vietnam and Indochina.

Hungary

A domestic broadcast noted that the President did not say what attitude he intended to adopt regarding Chinese representation in the UN; the broad-

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cast also pointed out the "utmost secrecy" surrounding Kissinger's visit to Peking.

Czechoslovakia

A domestic broadcast noted briefly the "secret" visit of Kissinger to Peking and the President's announcement of his forthcoming visit.

Poland

A domestic broadcast mentioned President Nixon's visit and noted the "deep concern" in Taiwan, which sent a protest note to Washington.

Yugoslavia

The Washington correspondent of the Yugoslav News Agency called the President's announcement the most dramatic since he entered the White House, and said that he made the greatest effort to present "this revelation as convincingly and rationally as possible," since he knew what surprise and shock would result in the US. The correspondent concluded that the initiative "for this great move came from the American side and it fell on favorable and perhaps previously prepared ground."

An international broadcast in English says that the Yugoslav press, television, and radio are treating the announcement of the forthcoming visit as a "political sensation," and that Yugoslav policy has "always welcomed every step leading to the calming and settling down of relations in the world."

France

A French Government spokesman, commenting that France had been informed in advance, said that "we can only express satisfaction over President Nixon's realistic decision to accept the invitation to visit Peking. As is known, we have believed for a long time that it is not possible to keep the People's Republic of China away from world affairs. We also see in this decision the implementation of a policy which, we hope, will bring an important contribution to the relaxation of tension and a solution to numerous world problems."

United Kingdom

The Foreign Office issued a brief statement saying that the British "welcome this move of which we were told in advance. Our own relations have been improving in the last eighteen months."

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Federal Republic of Germany

FRG spokesman Conrad Ahlers said that the Federal Government hopes President Nixon's announced visit to Peking will contribute to an improvement in the world situation and lead to peace in Southeast Asia. The FRG shares Nixon's view that a firm and lasting peace without the participation of the PRC is unthinkable. Ahlers said that the German Government had been informed about President Nixon's intentions before the public announcement and had taken cognizance of it "obviously with great attention."

Italy

Sources close to Prime Minister Colombo said that the Italian Government welcomed President Nixon's decision as a useful step towards the consolidation of peace. The sources added that dialogue between major world powers is always useful.

Netherlands

The Dutch Government said it had learned "with satisfaction" of the proposed trip.

Vatican

A spokesman told newsmen that the Vatican always welcomed such initiatives in the hope that they would consolidate peace and collaboration among peoples.

India

The Foreign Minister called it a "significant, positive development" and expressed the hope that a speedy and peaceful settlement in Indochina will be possible as a result of the visit.

Pakistan

The Foreign Secretary stated that it is a "welcome and very desirable step" which will help the cause of peace.

Tanzania

President Nyerere's personal assistant for foreign affairs told our Chargé that the statement was "very exciting" news and that there appeared to be "a revolution" in process in international affairs in the world today.

INR/OD:WBerry


Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary

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