

2/28/72

Dear Js,

Enclosed is all of today's Was Post China coverage. Remember, we get the first edition. Several things are conspicuous after a hasty scanning.

First, it is better than the early reports indicated, as I see it, much better.

There is no comment from the politicians. I heard HHH's last hurrah, and it was bile delivered unpersuasively, with death in the eyes and blood on the lips.

There is almost no wire copy. I think the summary from AP is all.

The experts, including Barnett, are latched into the past and evaluate the future with eyes looking back, not mind, which sees ahead by looking backward as the eyes do not. They haven't begun to understand the radical thing this is. I agree with Nixon's evaluation, this is the beginning of a new era. The phoney liberals like Ball, who have as heavy a burden of the past to carry, and imprisoned by the past and their own guilt in it.

These hasbeens are still talking about the victories and defeats of sides, and that is now outdated, as it should have been long ago. There can no longer be such concepts, and this event should be the beginning of the understanding of that truism of the future. We "gave" nothing. We had nothing to "give". We did several things: we recognized what we could no longer not recognize, the reality. We admitted, without even suggesting it, our own errors of the past. I wonder if the Chinese saw this as what they call self-criticism? We said henceforth we will do better. The Chinese recognized our personal reform would take time and accept that. Reform will be slow and hard and it will take long. But it is possible and we need it more than anyone else. On their part, the Chinese threw in what was not necessary, the voluntary statement of policy that they will not exert hegemony over any country or part of the world. I think this is not new as a statement of policy, but I think it is politically wise as a statement to all small countries and to Japan. By the way, the first direct China to Japan plane landed there today, from something I heard driving Idl to work, so the Japanese have seen the handwriting and read it accurately, as I think we will learn in more detail. The effort to satisfy Russia is extensive. There will be political friction between them and China as long as the current leaders of both lands are in power, but the reconciliation is now inevitable. On its part, I suspect the generation of older Russian leaders simply can't forgive Mao for being right about basing on the peasants, opposite Russian doctrine and in open contest with it. Their inflexibility will end, and it now has ample reason to. I think there will be rather more trade than the doom-criers conceive possible, and that it will start soon, and with the \$\$, trade is close to sacred. And boy do we need even a little more of it! Saying China can't pay is absolute nonsense, and we'll be going crazy for anything from there. Simple souvenirs will be in demand. What I don't know is what they can export, but handicrafts, simple and limited as they are, may be in some surplus, and even wickerwork will not sell here.

Anyway, above all this hasty reading convinced me of two things: we just can't pay any attention to the "experts" not only because they know less and are unwilling to understand, but because they are vain and defensive and more concerned with the appearance of having been right than with anything else; and this is a more important end to an important world development than we had any right to anticipate at its beginning. If it is not Huxleys, it is the beginning of the incubation of a brave new world. Let us hope there is no abortion, and that those with the longing that it be aborted can't arrange it.

If only a Nixon could pull it from our side, the reflection of the remarkable ability and amazing practice of diplomacy by the Chinese impresses me and tells me they will be exerting more and good influence than 10 days ago I would have thought possible. They squeezed every drop possible, and I think history will record none of it with selfish purpose only. They have come, they will have to be reckoned with, and they will be...And the hollering here.

If I'm wrong, I've recorded my error. We'll see. Best,