

Fresh Breezes at State ^{Panel} _{12/15/66}

The diversity of views represented in the recently-named State Department advisory panel on China is gratifying. By appointing prominent critics of American policy, including Columbia's Doak Barnett and Harvard's John Fairbank, the Administration has made clear that it is anxious to keep in touch with all currents of informed thinking on China and is willing to give unprejudiced consideration to fresh policy approaches. The representative character of the China panel comes as an added indication that the Department views the device of advisory panels as something more than mere window-dressing. Companion panels on policy toward other areas of the Far East and on the United Nations have also been chosen with a refreshing absence of dogmatism. Former Ambassador to Japan Edwin Reischauer, chairman of the Far East panel, made a speech in New Jersey calling for continuing exploration of the "two China" approach within days of the announcement of his appointment.

Although they are scheduled to meet only three times a year, the new advisory groups are likely to stimulate increased year-round contact on an informal basis between academicians and officials. The panelists will receive expense allowances but not stipends, as they would in a consulting relationship, and will thus have no cause to feel even the slightest implicit constraint on their independence. This would appear to be a desirable pattern of association between Government and academic experts.

If it is serious about harnessing expertise effectively to policymaking, the State Department should above all have a greatly expanded staff in its own Bureau of Intelligence and Research, including academicians temporarily in the service of the Government. But Bureaucratized research needs to be supplemented and refreshed by systematic interchange with outside scholars of the sort now assured by the advisory panels.