

Ford Calls China Talks 'Substantial'

by Lou Cannon,
Peking WXPPost (filed China)

President Ford departed for Jakarta today after four days of talks with Chinese leaders that Mr. Ford termed "friendly, candid, substantial and constructive" but which produced no new agreements of any kind.

Mr. Ford left with one slight concession from the Chinese — the names of seven dead U.S. naval fliers who, the Chinese said, were shot down over China or in Chinese waters by the North Vietnamese and who had been listed as missing in action. These names will be released in Washington as soon as next of kin are notified.

This was the only announcement of a specific nature. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, talking to reporters after a farewell banquet last night, was unable to cite any specific achievement of the four days of meetings but said the talks were beneficial because they enabled "the leaders of both sides to understand the perceptions of the other and to see where parallel policies can be pursued."

Kissinger gave only a few details of the meetings, which have been conducted in conditions of intense secrecy on both sides. He did, however, mention Europe and the former Portuguese colony of Angola as examples of "parallel policies."

In Angola, the Soviets are supporting a leftist revolutionary movement to the consternation of both the United States and China. In Europe, both the Americans and the Chinese are promoting military and economic unity as a barrier to Soviet penetration.

On the basic issues that

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divide the United States and China — the question of detente with the Soviet Union and the formal recognition of the Peking government instead of the government on Taiwan — neither the President nor Kissinger made any claim of success.

The final toasts between Mr. Ford and Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping revealed nothing on the Taiwan issue except a reaffirmation of the Shanghai communique signed by former President Nixon and Premier Chou En-Lai on Feb. 28, 1972. In that communique the United States conceded that Taiwan was part of China and affirmed "the ultimate objective of the withdrawal of all U.S. forces and military installations from Taiwan."

Kissinger said last night that the Chinese desire the U.S. to proceed on "the Japanese model" and break off relations with Taiwan. He gave the impression that this would happen, but not immediately and not during an election year. When the Secretary of State was asked whether there was a calendar for breaking off relations, he replied: "No, there is no agreed calendar."

The two sides made as little progress on the Soviet question as they did on Taiwan. The Soviet issue is the obsession of Chinese foreign policy, as Teng made clear in an opening toast Monday night when he predicted the inevitability of war with the Russians and denounced Soviet efforts around the world.

From the opening toasts, it became apparent that China and the U.S. were far apart on this issue and could do no more than agree to disagree.

Mr. Ford reaffirmed his desire to continue detente policies with his Russians, and Kissinger said last night that there is "a good chance" he would soon go to Moscow in an attempt to arrange a summit meeting leading to another U.S.-Russian nuclear arms agreement.

At the concluding banquet hosted by the Americans last night, Teng did not mention the detente issue at all, apparently feeling he had made his point earlier in the week. He also made no reference to the four rounds of talks he had with Mr. Ford, merely citing the "earnest and significant conversation" between the President and Communist Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The only mention of the Soviet issue came from Mr. Ford, and he seemed to be expressing his understanding for the intense Chinese feelings about the Soviets without actually giving ground on detente.

The President referred to a passage in the Shanghai communique which said that both sides agreed "not to seek hegemony over others," the phrase applied by the Chinese to Soviet expansion.

"This reflects the realism which is a hallmark of our relationship," Mr. Ford said. "And realism is a firmer basis than sentiment for sound and durable ties."

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