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Kennedy-China 200

NEW YORK AP - Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has called for an overhaul of U.S. policy toward Communist China, including pulling U.S. troops off Formosa and giving Communist China a seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Kennedy, in a speech Thursday night, also called for removing all travel and nonstrategic trade barriers with mainland China and opening consular missions there until diplomatic relations are established.

The Massachusetts Democrat told the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. "Surely, in the entire history of American foreign policy, there has been no fiction more palpably absurd than our official position that Communist China does not exist."

Kennedy, the Senate assistant majority leader, called on the Nixon administration "to rectify the errors of the past" by offering "a clear and attractive alternative to the existing impasse in our relations."

Negotiations with the Communists should begin "at the earliest opportunity," Kennedy said.

The senator proposed that the China seat in the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly be given to the Communists. He said Nationalist China might retain General Assembly membership and that diplomatic recognition should be maintained with the Nationalists.

He also proposed the "demilitarization" of Formosa.

The committee is holding a two-day conference attended by about 2,500 persons.

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In calling on President Nixon to remove U.S. bases from Formosa, Kennedy said, "This demilitarization of Taiwan could take place at no cost to our treaty commitments, or to the security of the island."

Kennedy said Red China probably would not accept U.S. overtures, but "at least it would make our position clear."

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