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Speculations About U.S. and Red China

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DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER'S secret foray into Communist China has even produced very major scholarly news. For time was found to show the American visitors the most important recent finds by Communist Chinese archeologists.

The prize find was a pair of jade body-stockings which were discovered in the tomb of a brother of the great emperor of the early Second Century B.C., Han Wu-ti. The body-stockings completely covered the dead prince and his chief wife.

They were made of many hundreds of small plaques of grayish green jade, attached to one another by gold wire.

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SO PRESIDENT NIXON'S great Chinese coup has even given the specialists in the history of ancient China something to get excited about. For the rest of us, the new development appears to be more and more remarkable, as more crumbs of information gradually become available.

It now appears that the first messages passed between the White House and the Forbidden City as long ago as last January. The exchanges were well developed, in fact, before Peking's famous invitation to the American Ping-Pong team.

It can be assumed that all the really major hurdles had been got over in these preliminary exchanges that continued right down to the decision to send Kissinger around the world. Great secrecy is being observed about the way the hurdles were finally handled. Yet anyone who is reasonably logical can figure out what

surely must have been agreed.

With respect to the seating of Communist China in the United Nations, to begin with, it is certain that the United States will not abandon its decided opposition to the simultaneous expulsion of Nationalist China.

For the longer term, it is certain the President has no intention of flushing Taiwan down the drain — as advocated by so many Democratic Senators. But it is also logical that the sticky problem of Taiwan will be passed over in silence, as the U.S. relationship with mainland China develops.

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FOR THE PRESENT phase of that relationship, again, anyone can deduce that Chou En-lai and Kissinger must have set up some sort of machinery for more direct exchanges between the Forbidden City and the White House. Finally, it is equally easy to deduce that one of the first fruits of President Nixon's visit to China is likely to be official "recognition," far more importantly followed by an exchange of Ambassadors between the two countries.

If so much had not been pretty well settled in advance, at least in very broad principle, it would have been madness to send Kissinger to China at all. For this is an enterprise in which any derailment could be infinitely damaging to President Nixon. He would never have gone so far with his enterprise in hand, in fact, if he had not been given the fullest insurance against the derailment the Democrats are still praying for.