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Adv. for 6 p.m. EST Mon. Dec. 20

China-U.S. 220

NEW YORK AP

Henry A. Kissinger assured Chinese leaders last July the United States would cut its military forces on Taiwan before President Nixon visits Peking.

The scholar, Harvard University Prof. Ross Terrill, wrote in the current issue of the Atlantic magazine the assurances were made before the Chinese agreed to invite the president. Washington is not being asked to hand over Taiwan to Peking-only to stop regarding its government as the government of China, and to take away its bases," the article said.

The Red Chinese feel such a move would leave the door wide open to a give-and-take between the two sides of the straits, and to a process of reabsorption that could stretch out over decades," it said.

News reports from Taipei last September said there were 6,800 American military men on Taiwan. Some 5,000 of them worked at the large Chingchuankang base, a transshipment point for supplies destined for Indochina.

The reports said the U.S. presence on Taiwan could be cut drastically in response to Peking demands without affecting the American ability or commitment to defend Taiwan. Terrill, who visited the mainland recently and interviewed top Chinese officials, said he was convinced the Peking government preferred a political to a military solution to the issue of Taiwan.

He also said that Nixon revealed to French President Charles De Gaulle in April 1969 he intended to withdraw from Vietnam and normalize U.S. relations with Communist China.

The French leader reported the talks to the Chinese, the article said, and as events unfolded and U.S. troops came back from Saigon, Peking's "began to realize that Nixon had meant what he told De Gaulle."

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