

(The following is final portion of comment by Cronkite, speaking from Peking. First portion not heard.)

..... There was a definite - it seemed to me - lack of warmth. One had the uncomfortable feeling that it was the American side that was trying to make the good impression on a not very impressionable host. The smiles seemed to be President Nixon's smiles, not Premier Chou's. The hoped-for toasts seemed to be the President's, not the Premier's, necessarily.

One undoubtedly can read too much into this, and on the positive side there was the meeting with Chairman Mao barely four hours after the President's arrival. But if one must sum up an impression as the second day begins, it would have to be that the Chinese reception has been correct but scarcely warm. For the handshake to reach an embrace, there is clearly a great deal of ground to be covered.

This is Walter Cronkite, CBS News, Peking: