

lead

From/story by Max Frankel, Peking:

..... a rather minimal welcome ceremony for the President [at Peking airport]. ..... The Presidential party was annoyed not so much by this welcome, aides said, as by news and television accounts that portrayed the arrangements as modest. The group's spokesmen contended that nothing more had been expected. But the party was in fact intensely curious about the caliber of reception the Chinese would stage on its arrival and was informed of the situation by walkie-talkie from the airport only moments before the President's plane touched down in Peking.

.....

In any case, whatever irritations there were passed quickly when Mr. Nixon's hosts arranged for a furtive change of schedule this afternoon and gave the President the relatively rare honor of an opening audience at the home of Chairman Mao. .... Mr Mao ... has usually held himself in reserve until well into the program of a distinguished visitor. .... There is now a distinct possibility that Mr. Nixon will meet with the Chairman a second time, either here or at his vacation home in Hangchow. The unexpected detour delayed the first Nixon-Chou conference for 90 minutes ... and delayed the banquet by a half hour.

.....

See New Orleans States-Item  
19 Feb 72, this file