

# U.S., Chinese Collusion Hinted

By Stanley Karnow

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A leading China expert has asserted that the United States and Chinese leaders tacitly cooperated to influence the vote that won the Peking regime admission to the United Nations last fall.

Ross Terrill, an Australian scholar now at Harvard, also discloses in a forthcoming book that the Chinese seriously contemplated inviting one or more Democratic senators to China last spring but changed their minds as plans for President Nixon's trip took shape.

Terrill suggests as well in his book that Peking's position on the Taiwan issue was clearly defined by the Chinese well in advance of the President's trip and essentially accepted by Mr. Nixon during his visit to China last month.

The Terrill book, entitled "800,000,000: The Real China," will be published later this month. It is based on the author's travels in China last summer and his frequent talks with Chinese diplomats in New York and elsewhere since then.

Administration contentions to the contrary Terrill claims to have learned from "fragments of information" that the question of Peking's admission to the U.N. was a crucial item in the talks between Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and Kissinger during their first encounter in July.

Terrill says that Kissinger indicated to Chou prior to a



ROSS TERRILL

... 'fragments of information'

public U.S. announcement on the subject that the administration would support Peking's entry into the U.N. and a place on the Security Council. Kissinger further told Chou, according to Terrill, that the United States would back Taiwan's attempt to remain in the U.N. but "did not know" if this effort would succeed.

As Terrill describes it, the administration's uncertainty about the result of the U.N. vote constituted an oblique signal to the Communists that the United States was "shadowboxing" rather than fighting strenuously to defend the Chiang Kai-shek regime.

More significant in Terrill's estimation was the timing of Kissinger's second visit to China in October. As he relates it, the Chinese not only scheduled the visit to coincide

with and thus sway the U.N. vote but kept Kissinger in Peking two additional days should a "slipup" occur.

The administration presumably acquiesced to this schedule and therefore, Terrill submits, Kissinger's presence in Peking was "more eloquent" than U.N. Ambassador George Bush's activities in New York.

Retracing the events that led to the President's China trip, Terrill reports that Mr. Nixon initially expressed his hope to visit China to French President Charles de Gaulle in early 1969. De Gaulle relayed the message to the Chinese through his ambassador in Peking, Etienne Manach.

What most impressed the Chinese, according to Manach's revelations to Terrill, was Mr. Nixon's intention to withdraw from Vietnam "come what may."

The Chinese were further impressed, Terrill writes, when the United States did not intervene to salvage the abortive South Vietnamese thrust into southern Laos early last year. Peking was particularly worried at that time by the possibility of a coup d'etat against Premier Souvanna Phouma's neutralist government and the establishment of a rightwing Laotian regime.

Early last spring, before the President's visit was organized, the Chinese were close to inviting prominent Democratic senators to China. Among those in line for invitations were Sens. George McGovern and Edward Kennedy. But, according to Terrill, the

idea was dropped when plans for Mr. Nixon took shape.

Terrill quotes Chinese officials as telling him that they really prefer Republicans because the Democrats "have been very keen on collusion with Moscow." Among other things, they cited former Ambassador Averell Harriman to support this point.

On the critical Taiwan issue, Terrill recounts, the Chinese affirmed that they would not demand that the Nixon administration "hand over" the island to Peking. Instead, he reports, they sought a U.S. pledge to remove American troops from Taiwan and an accord that the problem would be resolved by the Chinese themselves through "a process of re-absorption that could stretch out over decades."

The communique that followed the President's trip last month come close to Peking's position, stating as it does that the withdrawal of American forces and military installations from Taiwan is the "ultimate" U.S. aim and the Taiwan problem should be settled peacefully "by the Chinese themselves."