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U.S. and China Will Soon Set Up Offices in Capitals
for Liaison; Peking to Free Two Americans*

Joint Disclosure

Kissinger Lists Series of Moves Planned to Improve Ties

by R.W. Apple Jr
Special to The New York Times

Washington, Feb. 22 - The United States and China, almost totally isolated from each other for two decades, moved close to formal diplomatic relations today with the announcement that each would soon establish a liaison office in the other's capital.

The new step in the relaxation of tensions was disclosed in a communiqué released jointly in Peking and at the White House exactly a year after President Nixon's arrival in the Chinese capital for negotiations with the Chinese leaders there.

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Transcript of Kissinger news conference 22 Feb 73 also in China file.

*Lieut. Comdr. Robert J. Flynn of Salt Lake City and Maj. Philip E. Smith of Victorville, Calif. . Commander Flynn, a Navy officer, was shot down in 1967, Major Smith, of the Air Force, in 1965.

Although the offices will not have embassy or mission status - and their chiefs will not be called ambassadors or ministers - they will be entitled to full diplomatic immunity and privileges, including the right to send messages in code.

Only the remaining American link to the Chinese Nationalists on Taiwan, with whom the United States maintains formal relations, appeared to have dictated the elaborate diplomatic fiction that the liaison offices constitute.

Peking and Taipei have made it clear that each will refuse to maintain relations with any country that exchanges embassies with the other.

Similar devices are used by the United States in the case of other countries with which it wants to talk in the absence of diplomatic recognition.