

Former President Richard Nixon and his wife Pat will fly to China for a visit of seven days, NBC News reported today. China plans to send a plane on or around February 19th to pick up Nixon in California. Chinese officials have said several times that they would welcome a visit by the former President, whose 1972 visit opened the way for formal Chinese-American relations.

David Eisenhower, upon his return from a recent trip to China said Nixon is very highly esteemed there. He is viewed as the individual who took a courageous step in opening up a relationship that the Chinese would like to continue.

Secretary of State Kissinger says that the U.S. Government is not in any way involved in the Nixon visit, but it may not strictly be a pleasure trip, however, as Nixon has repeatedly indicated that he would like to be appointed ambassador to China.

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