

Talk of a Meeting Between Mao, Nixon

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Chairman Mao Tse-tung has said he would like to talk with President Nixon in Peking, and Mr. Nixon has expressed a "thirst" to visit China, Life magazine says this week.

Edgar Snow, an American writer who has long known Mao, writes that Mao told

him in a five-hour conversation last December that Mr. Nixon would be welcomed because "the problems between China and the U.S.A. would have to be solved with Nixon."

Hugh Sidey, Life's White House columnist, writes that Mr. Nixon declared to "ex-

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tend the hand of friendship" to China last year during the Middle East crisis.

Mr. Nixon said Russia won't make any effort to approach China, so the United States would have to do it. Otherwise, Mr. Nixon is quoted as having said, the world will be in mortal danger within 20 years.

Snow reports that messages were delivered last year from Washington to the Chinese government by go-betweens.

"The purpose of such communications," Snow wrote, "was to assure Chinese leaders of Mr. Nixon's 'new outlook' on Asia.

"Nixon was firmly determined, it was said, to withdraw from Vietnam as speedily as possible, to seek a negotiated international guarantee of the independence of Southeast Asia, to end the impasse in Sino-American relations by clearing up the Taiwan question and to bring the People's Republic into the United Nations and into diplomatic relations with the United States."

Snow says the late Charles de Gaulle, president of France, was to have visited China this year, and might have played a key role in smoothing Chinese-American relations.