

25 JUL

Transcript of the President's Statement

Resolving that the world's Live Editions
Following is the transcript
of a statement Thursday
night by President Nixon on
United States-China relations
as recorded by The New
York Times.

Good evening.
I have requested this tele-
vision time tonight to an-
nounce a major development
in our efforts to build a last-
ing peace in the world.

As I have pointed out on a
number of occasions over the
past three years, there can be
no stable peace and enduring
peace without the participa-
tion of the People's Republic
of China and its 750 million
people. That is why I have
in recent months in sev-
eral areas to open the door
for more normal relations
between our two countries.

In pursuance of that goal,
I sent Dr. Kissinger, my
Assistant for National Security
Affairs, to Peking during
his recent world tour for the

purpose of having talks with
Premier Chou En-lai.

The announcement I shall
now read is being issued
simultaneously in Peking and
in the United States.

"Premier Chou En-lai and
Dr. Henry Kissinger, Pres-
ident Nixon's Assistant for
National Security Affairs,
held talks in Peking from
July 9 to 11, 1971. Knowing
of President Nixon's ex-
pressed desire to visit the
People's Republic of China,
Premier Chou En-lai on be-
half of the Government of the
People's Republic of China
has extended an invitation to
President Nixon to visit
China at an appropriate date
before May, 1972.

"President Nixon has ac-
cepted the invitation with
pleasure.

"The meeting between the
leaders of China and the
United States is to seek the
normalization of relations
between the two countries
and also to exchange views
on questions of concern to
the two sides."

In anticipation of the in-
evitable speculation which
will follow this announce-
ment, I want to put our
policy in the clearest possible
context. Our action in seek-
ing a new relationship with
the People's Republic of
China will not be at the
expense of our old friends.

It is not directed against
any other nation. We seek
friendly relations with all
nations. Any nation can be
our friend without being any
other nation's enemy.

I have taken this action
because of my profound
conviction that all nations
will gain from a reduction of
tensions and a better rela-
tionship between the United
States and the People's
Republic of China.

It is in this spirit that I
will undertake what I deeply
hope will become a journey
for peace, peace not just for
our generation but for future
generations on this earth we
share together.

Thank you and good night.