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Nixon's Gradual Shift on China

Washington

In 20 years, Richard M. Nixon slowly evolved from an implacable foe of Red China into the U.S. President who has now extended the hand of friendship to the Peoples Republic of China.

This dramatic change climaxed Thursday night when the President announced his forthcoming trip to Peking. But he had told his hopes to his daughters in an intimate family setting at Camp David, Md., Easter Sunday, telling them in effect: "The place to go is China."

The record shows that at the height of the Korean war in 1951 then - Senator Nixon, already a veteran hunter of domestic Communists, was denouncing the Chinese Reds and blaming the Democrats for having "lost" China.

WARNING

He continued to warn against any such step as recognition of China or a United Nations seat for Peking in the days of his vice presidency under President Eisenhower.

But by 1960, and his unsuccessful presidential campaign against John F. Kennedy, there had been a softening in his rhetoric.

In the fall of 1960, he was saying "our attitude toward China) should not be rigid. We cannot and should not say we will never recognize the government that rules over 600 million people."

After a seven - year political hiatus, he went into the

1969 presidential campaign declaring that the time had arrived "to come urgently to grips with the reality of China."

TALKS

Looking toward eventual talks with Chinese leaders, he said:

"Taking the long view, we simply cannot afford to leave China forever outside the family of nations, there to nurture its fantasies, cherish its hates and threaten its neighbors."

After entering the White House Mr. Nixon moved cautiously, relaxing trade and travel restrictions and, as it turns out now, setting his foreign policy adviser, Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, to the task of making further overtures to China's leaders.

It all came to a head with Mr. Nixon's announcement of his trip to China sometime before next May because, as he put it, "there can be no stable and enduring peace without the participation of the Peoples Republic of China."

But he had expressed his dream with feeling on April 16 when, appearing before a panel at the American Society of Newspaper Editors, he was asked about his hopes in regard to U.S. relations with China.

HISTORY

After recounting some history, he concluded by saying:

"The other day was Easter Sunday. Both my daughters,

Tricia and Julie, were there — Tricia with Eddie Cox — I understand they are getting married this June — and Julie and David Eisenhower."

"The conversation got around to travel and also, of course, with regard to honeymoon travel and the rest. They were asking me, where would you like to go?"

"So, I sat back and thought a bit and said, 'Well, the place to go is Asia.' I said: 'I hope that some time in your life, sooner rather than later,

you will be able to go to China to see the great cities and the people, and all of that, there.'

"I hope they do. As a matter of fact, I hope sometime I do."

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