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Max Frankel:

..... Even before he reached the White House, Mr. Nixon had made it clear that he had put behind him his once fervent conviction that dealings with Peking would only increase its power and "probably irreparably weaken" its non-Communist neighbors. ....

Moreover, Mr. Nixon decided that he could succeed in overtures to Peking where the like-minded Administrations of President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson had failed - partly because he could more easily overcome the political barriers that he and other Republicans had erected against such a policy in the nineteen-fifties. ....