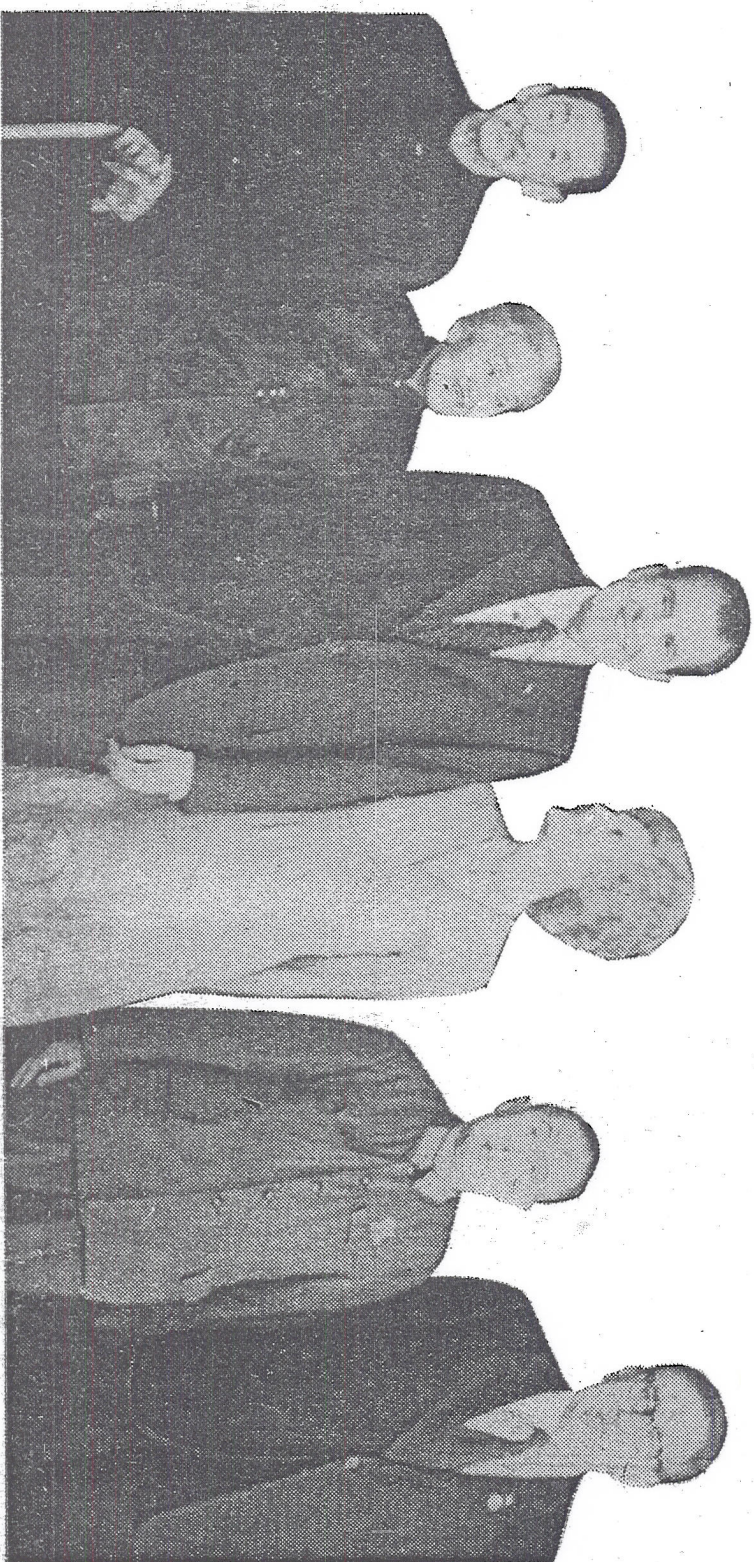


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Nixons' Farewell to Peking



The Nixons and Henry Kissinger (right) posed with a group of Chinese officials at the final banquet in Peking

AP Wirephoto

Enthusiasm Begins to Wear Off

By Max Frankel
N.Y. Times Service

Peking

A cordial but relatively restrained banquet closed the major phase of President Nixon's meetings with Premier Chou En-lai here last night.

The two men then headed for weekend visits to Hangchow and Shanghai, still guarding the secrets of their extensive discussions.

With none of the enthusiasm of their opening-night

feast here, the President and the Premier traded toasts that stressed their differences during five days of private conference and also implied diverging objectives.

While Mr. Nixon stressed a desire for more unofficial contacts between Chinese and Americans, Chou emphasized a prior interest in normal state relations.

The issue of Taiwan is known to stand in the way of such normal diplomatic relations, but it is unclear to

what extent the Chinese leader sees it also as an obstacle to informal government dealings and unofficial exchanges of people and goods.

Mr. Nixon, in his toast, seized on the symbolism of the Great Wall of China, asserting that the meetings "have begun the long process of removing" the wall between the two countries.

He spoke of the talks as a beginning, saying nothing more about the prospects for future contacts and merely

reiterating the belief that he brought to China that both nations share an interest in peace and building "a new world order."

Chou said the discussions have been "honest and frank" and therefore beneficial to both sides, but he then offered an elliptical vision of the future:

"The times are advancing and the world changing. We are deeply convinced that the strength of the people is powerful and that whatever

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zig-zags and reverses there will be in the development of history, the general trend of the world is definitely towards light and not darkness."

Weariness, or the tension of the secret talks or simply the reality of the gulf that remains between the two countries appeared to have had their effect.

Forty-eight hours remain in this extraordinary summit conference in which Mr. Nixon and Chou may yet formally define the future contacts and relationships of their governments and peoples. The relatively muted tone of the Peking closing, therefore, may have been merely a phase of the negotiations, denoting some unresolved questions of substance or wording.

COMMUNIQUE

But White House officials have been hedging a bit in the last two days about whether the journey will end with a formal communique on Monday. There was no doubt about that before they left Washington last week, but now there seems to be. No reliable indication of the course of the private talks has been available.

There seemed to be some loss of flavor last night even in the banquet food, although the dishes by the Chinese staff of the great hall were intriguing in name and appearance — pea sprouts and pigeon egg soup, three delicacies (sea slugs, shrimp balls and chicken) with egg white, duck cubes in spiced sauce, vegetarian macedoine, sweet and sour Mandarin  and walnut cream soup,

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assorted pastries, dumplings and fruit.

A few American touches were added to the affair to establish the President and Mrs. Nixon as the hosts, including menus printed under a White House seal, paperweights with the President's autograph as gifts, American cigarettes and White House matchbooks and a Napa Valley (California) champagne for the toasts, for which the People's Liberation Army Band again provided the music.

RESTRAINT

In deference to American custom — or the requirements of American television — Mr. Nixon delayed the toasts from the first to the last main course of the meal. It was not only what was said but also what was left unsaid in the brief speeches that confirmed the sense of restraint in the hall.

The President said nothing that he had not said before setting foot on Chinese soil five days ago and he said less than on his first night in Peking.

The long process of diplomacy begins with the recognition of "great differences" and the determination that those differences shall not prevent China and the United States from living in peace, he said. There can be respect without agreement, he added, emphasizing that history rather than war should be the judge of rival ideas.

But the President did not repeat his informal remarks of the previous day, calling

for an open world and for tourism and other exchange programs. Nor did he repeat Monday's tribute to China's peaceful intentions and to Chairman Mao's poetic instruction to seize the day and the hour. Mr. Nixon closed with George Washington's farewell, "Cultivate peace and harmony with all."

CHOU

Chou was even briefer and equally suggestive in trimming his earlier public statement.

The Premier said there were great differences of principle between the two governments and it was good at least to know them better. He was banking on the strength "of the people," he said, in feeling optimistic about the long-run evolution of history. He knew that the Chinese and American peoples wanted more understanding and friendship and normal state relations, he added, and the Chinese government, he promised, will work toward that goal. He said nothing about the United States government. The President and the Premier met privately for about an hour before the banquet, although they had originally planned on three hours. There was no explanation for this.

They planned on further conversation during the flight to Hangchow about a Chinese aircraft and during social functions there.

The Americans seem not to know whether they will be received again by Mao, who has a home in that lake city, 100 miles southwest of Shanghai, where the President will spend tomorrow before heading home on Monday.