

Mansfield Says Step-up of War Eclipse Chance for Better U.S.-China Ties

HE CALLS VIETNAM CRUCIAL QUESTION

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Scott, in Separate Report
on Trip, Hails Material
Progress of Chinese
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WASHINGTON, May 11 —

The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, who returned last weekend from a 16-day tour of China, said today that the step-up of the Vietnam war had "thrown into at least temporary eclipse" the possibility of improved relations between Washington and Peking.

The Democratic leader gave his appraisal in reporting to the Senate on the recent trip that he and Senator Hugh Scott, the Senate Republican leader, took to China.

During their stay, the two Senate leaders visited six cities—Peking, Shanghai, Hangchow, Sian, Changsha and Canton—traveled more than 5,000 miles and had several hours of discussions with Premier Chou En-lai and Deputy Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua.

Senator Mansfield said that the Chinese leaders take the position that until the Vietnam war is settled, there can be no further progress in improving Chinese-American relations. He also cautioned that it was "illusory" to expect that the Chinese, out of a desire to improve relations with the United States, would try to influence Hanoi to end the war or release American prisoners.

Scott Hails Progress

In a separate report, Senator Scott emphasized the dynamism, dedication and material progress of Chinese society under Communist rule.

"China as a totality adds up to something radically different from our knowledge, experience and concepts," Senator Scott, an expert in ancient Chinese art, observed.

"In the case of China," he said, "we have a strong culture determined to go its way, to assimilate what it wants of the West with retention of its own identity and direction."

"It is important that we normalize relations to the greatest extent possible," the

Senator added. "At the same time we must remain alert to the fact that there are basic philosophical differences in our views of man and society."

Noting that Hanoi and Haiphong were bombed by United States planes shortly before they arrived in China on April 18, Senator Mansfield said the Vietnam war had dominated all discussions with the Chinese leaders.

Mansfield Quotes Chinese

"The Chinese, he said, "made it plain that our actions in Indochina were a matter of great concern. If Taiwan is the crucial question for the normalization of Sino-United States relations, it is apparent that Vietnam is fundamental to a further relaxation of tensions in the Western Pacific."

Apparently quoting a statement by Premier Chou, Senator Mansfield said:

"The Chinese comment on this matter was unequivocal and I quote it: 'Unless this can be settled,' he said, 'there can be no progress on other issues.'"

Out of the Peking discussions, he said, came "a bleak picture of the prospects of peace on the basis of present policies of all concerned."

The Chinese, he said, "made clear their belief that the resumption of the bombing of the North would prolong rather than end the war."

"Strong exception was taken to the Administration's contention that the action was justified because North Vietnamese armies had invaded the South," he added.

Support Is 'Unequivocal'

He said: "The Chinese want a rapprochement with the United States, but they also want us out of Indochina. Their support of North Vietnam's position is unequivocal. They believe that the United States, one way or another, will ultimately be forced to withdraw, and they seemed confident that, once we are gone, the people of the three countries will work out their own political arrangements."

"Regrettably," Senator Mansfield said, "the eruptions in

Indochina have lengthened the shadows over the prospects for peace in Asia. In my judgment, the new sorties into North Vietnam have tarnished the significance of the President's visit to China and, of course, the visit of the Senate's joint leadership. They have thrown into at least temporary eclipse the possibilities of Chinese-United States rapprochement. When these shadows lift and only then can there be an expectation of change, a change for better in Asia."

With his Peking trip, he said, President Nixon symbolically marked the end of a policy based on "the preconceived notion of China as an aggressor nation." Yet in Vietnam, he said, "we are still engaged in a war which, to put the best face on it, was sanctioned by what has now become a discredited policy toward China."

"If the old China policy is no longer valid, is not the present involvement in the Viet-

nam war which derived from that policy also invalid?" he asked.

In his report, however, Senator Scott raised the question—without attempting any answer—"How far do China's claims of nonaggressive aims really extend?"

In his general observations, Senator Scott said it was evident that "great marginal progress" had been made in China, although he questioned whether it would be possible to maintain the "easily evident fervor and dedication."

"Most definitely, the Chinese are not backward in energy," Senator Scott said. "There is no apathy, no toleration of any tendency toward deterioration."

"I the factories, on the communes, and in the street, one senses vigor, vitality and dedication—a desperate struggle to move ahead."

House Leaders Plan Visit

WASHINGTON, May 11 (Reuters)—Two leaders of the House of Representatives will go to China at the end of June for a 15-day trip, informed sources said today.

The House Democratic leader, Hale Boggs of Louisiana, and the Republican leader, Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, will visit China between June 23 and July 8, the sources said.