

U.S., China Edge Closer To Full Ties

Tokyo

U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrived here from China yesterday after signing a joint communique that seemed to move Washington and Peking another step closer to full diplomatic relations.

In the language worked out by Kissinger and Premier Chou En-lai early yesterday morning in Peking, the two sides appeared to have narrowed the gap on the complex issue of the Nationalist government on Taiwan — the main obstacle up to now to the complete normalization of relations.

According to the 700-word document, the Chinese now believe that there can be full diplomatic ties once there is a U.S. confirmation of "the principle of one China."

POLICY

It is currently U.S. policy not to challenge Peking's view that there is but one China and it is not too long a diplomatic step from that policy to one of actually confirming the one-China principle. This U.S. confirmation still must be worked out through negotiations, but a senior U.S. official said here yesterday that there is now hope for "a definite movement to normalization."

The Peking communique was issued simultaneously in Peking, Washington and Tokyo shortly after Kissinger arrived here for talks with Japanese leaders.

Kissinger's Air Force 707 jet was seen off at Peking's airport by Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei for the final phase of the secretary's round-the-world trip which began last week in the Middle East and will conclude tomorrow with a stop in South Korea on the way back to Washington.

PLEASED

American officials were clearly pleased with the way

Kissinger's 3½ days of talks in Peking went, even though there was no spectacular announcement in the communique. In February, during Kissinger's trip to China, it had been decided to establish quasi-diplomatic liaison offices in Peking and Washington.

A senior official said that the wording on the Taiwan

Back Page Col. 1

From Page 1

issue was put into the communique by Premier Chou, and reflected his keen sense of "nuance." The official said that in coming months the U.S. will study the meaning of the apparent modification in the Chinese position.

There were other significant elements in the communique, the official said, besides the Taiwan development. These included:

- A willingness by the Chinese to engage in discussions in the future with the U.S. on broad ranges of international questions, en-

larging upon their earlier agreement after President Nixon's visit to Peking in 1972 to discuss matters of mutual interest.

- The communique issued in 1972 after the Nixon visit had called upon the two sides to stay in contact, and specifically provided for Kissinger's trips to Peking. The new communique goes beyond that, to include "frequent contact at authoritative levels" in Washington and Peking. The document said this is "of particular importance" at this time, but did not specify why.

- The liaison offices in each capital would be wid-

ened in scope, presumably to include consular, trade and information services.

Although it was not mentioned in the communique, the Chinese told American officials that they were not opposed in principle to allowing American news organizations to open permanent bureaus in Peking. But they expressed concern about the reciprocal rights of Chinese newsmen in Washington, where journalists from Taiwan are already accredited. American officials said they thought some acceptable solution could be worked out.

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