

Peking's Position on Taiwan Appears Firm

By James Reston
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Peking

Despite President Nixon's recent efforts to establish normal relations with China, powerful officials of the People's Liberation Army are now mounting a campaign calling for the total withdrawal of United States troops not only from Taiwan and Vietnam but also from South Korea, Japan,

the Philippines and Thailand.

During celebrations last weekend of the 44th anniversary of the founding of the communist armed forces, the army opened to the foreign press for the first time the military exhibit in Peking and stressed political functions of the armed services at home and abroad.

On the whole, this exhibit emphasized that the army is not only a fighting force but a work force and a production force as well.

However, the presentation ended with a statement that the army was "determined to liberate the sacred soil of Taiwan."

Army Day was highlighted by a reception for the central committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the Peking diplomatic corps, at which Huang Yung-sheng, chief of the general staff of the army, in the presence of Premier Chou En-lai and Chiang Ching, the wife of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, called for the withdrawal of all American troops from this part of the world.

"United States imperialism," he said, "must com-

pletely withdraw its aggressor troops from Indochina, the southern part of Korea, Japan, the Philippines and all other countries and regions which it has occupied, and stop its interference in the internal affairs of the peoples of the Middle East and the Arab people as well as the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America."

There is absolutely no evidence here that the Chinese government is preparing the Chinese people for any compromise with President Nixon on the Taiwan issue or anything else.

There has still been not one single word of official commentary or analysis here about the forthcoming Nixon visit or the Kissinger mission which arranged it.

Officials here talk about what position Nixon will take regarding the China seat in the United Nations but say they have no official information from Washington about his intentions.

"We are like the bridegroom in an old pre-arranged Chinese marriage," they say. "We are just waiting for the wedding day to see what the bride looks like."