

NIXON, MAO SQUARE OFF

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PEKING (AP) — President Nixon and Premier Chou En-lai conferred for nearly four hours today, apparently sounding each other on the chasms that separate their two countries.

In the evening, President and Mrs. Nixon, accompanied by Mme. Chiang Ching, wife of Mao Tse-tung, attended a modern revolutionary ballet in the Great Hall of the People.

Unlike the largely ceremonial meeting yesterday, Nixon and Chou sat down in the Great Hall of the People with only close advisers present. This indicated that they were buckling down

to the hard questions of where they disagree.

CHOU'S REMARKS OF the first day, suggesting a normalization of relations, gave hope that something concrete may emerge from Nixon's visit to China.

The meeting room was small. Instead of the line of easy chairs in which they posed for photographers yesterday, they faced each other across a rectangular table only a few feet wide.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers

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THE STATES

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New Orleans

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sat at Nixon's left and Henry A. Kissinger, presidential adviser on national security, on the right.

The atmosphere at the outset was jovial and friendly. All laughed during the brief picture-taking before the leaders got down to business.

CHOU NOTED THERE were few smokers in the U.S. delegation. Nixon smiled and shoved back a pack of cigarettes his host had placed before him. Nixon said the Americans would give the Chinese their share of tobacco.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers did not sit in on the conference. He was conferring with Foreign Minister Chi Pen-fei.

For the first time, the Chinese press gave extensive coverage of the visit with pictures of Nixon with Mao and with Chou.

MEANWHILE, MRS. NIXON began her sightseeing with a visit to the kitchens of the famed Peking Hotel, a citadel of Mandarin cuisine. She displayed obvious pleasure at everything she saw and everything she tasted but finally called a halt to the sampling, commenting, "All I seem to be doing all day is eating. I don't want to buy all new clothes when I get back."

The local press and radio had ignored the arrival of the presidential party yesterday, but today the Ameri-

can visitors were the big story.

"Chairman Mao Meets President Nixon," said the headline across the top of the front page of the Peking People's Daily, the newspaper of the Communist party and China's most important journal. And beneath that headline the entire front page was devoted to the meeting between Nixon and Mao Tse-tung and the other events of the President's first day in China.

There were three pictures on the front page and four more inside of Nixon with Mao, Nixon and Chou and the banquet which Chou gave last night for the Nixons and most of the Americans who came with them.

THE PEOPLE'S DAILY also ran the texts of Chou's toast to the President at the banquet and Nixon's in reply.

Radio Peking began broadcasting the news of the President's visit and his meetings with the Chinese leaders at 7 a.m., including recordings of the two toasts, and kept this up all day.

So far the presidential visit has not been mentioned on the Chinese television network, although Chinese TV men have been covering the various events. But TV is not a big thing in China yet, and few antennae are seen about Peking. The people get the word from the press and the radio, and Nixon was the big story with them today.