

U.S. Party Lands In Peking in Snow; Holds First Talks

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PEKING, Jan. 3 (Reuters)—An American advance party flew into China's snow-covered capital today to make final preparations for President Nixon's visit next month. Members of the party had their first contact with senior Chinese officials within a few hours.

The 31 Americans, headed by Brig. Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., Mr. Nixon's deputy national security adviser, and including the Presidential press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, were driven to Peking's Great Hall of the People, where state guests are usually entertained.

General Haig is authorized to handle any substantive aspects of the President's visit. His discussions will be much more technical than those held by Mr. Nixon's chief security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, on his trip to Peking, in October.

Press arrangements for the Nixon visit and the possibility of live television coverage will be among the subjects discussed with officials during the United States delegations stay, which is expected to last at least a week.

Question on Prisoners

General Haig may have been asked to make preliminary contacts about American prisoners in North Vietnam. President Nixon said in a television interview last night that he would raise the subject with the Chinese leaders if no progress had been made with Hanoi before his trip to China.

The general and his delegation are staying at Peking's Minorities Hotel, on the main Avenue of Eternal Peace. The whole building has been taken over for them, and tonight the police were forbidding others to enter the grounds.

At the airport only Chinese correspondents were allowed to approach as the Americans were greeted by the head of the protocol department at the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Han Hsu.

Resident foreign correspondents, including those from Cuba, North Vietnam and a Vietcong agency, remained inside the terminal about 40 yards away.