

PEKING CANCELS TALKS WITH U.S., CITING DEFECTOR

Bars Warsaw Meeting on Ground Envoy to Hague Was Subverted by C.I.A.

ROGERS DENIES CHARGE

Washington Says It Planned Steps for Accord at First Session in 13 Months

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 —

Communist China today canceled a long-awaited meeting in Warsaw with the United States, 48 hours before it was to take place.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers, expressing disappointment, disclosed that the Nixon Administration had intended to make specific "constructive" proposals at the ambassadorial-level meeting toward improving relations.

The Chinese charged that the new Administration, by granting political asylum two weeks ago to a high-ranking Peking diplomat who defected, had merely "inherited the mantle of the preceding United States Government in flagrantly making itself the enemy of the 700 million Chinese people."

United States officials believed that Peking's use of the defection as a reason for cancelling the talks was merely a pretext, following the more basic judgment by the Chinese that the two sides were still too widely separated in their attitudes to make a meeting worthwhile.

Gestures for Accord Planned

Mr. Rogers, in a statement distributed by the State Department, indicated that the United States had planned to accept Peking's suggestion that the two countries discuss the conclusion of an agreement setting forth principles of peaceful coexistence.

Second, the Administration

intended to renew previous offers to exchange newsmen, scholars, scientists and scientific information, Mr. Rogers said in a statement distributed by the State Department.

Finally, the United States representative for the talks, Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel Jr., had been instructed to propose a settlement of pending postal and telecommunications problems. Peking severed all telephone and telegraph circuits with the United States last November after refusing to accept the normal payment for

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these facilities accrued over 18 years.

The meeting was to have been the 135th in a series that began in 1955. The two countries have no diplomatic relations and the irregularly scheduled ambassadorial meetings, which began in Geneva and were switched to Warsaw in 1958, have provided their only direct contacts. The last meeting was held in January, 1968.

The Peking cancellation was conveyed in a note delivered by a Chinese messenger to Mr. Stoessel.

Hsinhua, the Chinese press agency, later distributed a Foreign Ministry statement that United States officials said contained the substance of the diplomatic note.

The Chinese said it was "obviously most unsuitable" to hold the meeting as scheduled, citing as the reason for cancellation the defection on Jan. 24 of Liao Hoshu, a Chinese diplomat in the Netherlands who was granted asylum in this country Feb. 4.

The Peking statement said that the defector "was incited to betray his country and [was] carried off to the United States by the Central Intelligence Agency."

Charge Called 'Untrue'

Mr. Rogers, in comments relayed by the State Department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, said that this Communist charge was "untrue."

The Peking statement declared that the United States was planning to send Mr. Liao to Taiwan to create "further anti-China incidents." This apparently referred to an invitation to Mr. Liao from the Chinese Nationalist Government on Feb. 9 to which no reply has yet been sent. Mr. McCloskey said Mr. Liao remained in this country.

Later, while testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Rogers was asked about the defector. He replied, "I'd be surprised if that's the reason" for the cancellation of the scheduled meeting.

Senator Mike Mansfield, Democrat of Montana, said "I am sorry they have reached that decision. We have had some defectors who have gone to China and we didn't use that excuse not to meet with them." Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the committee, commented that the episode seemed "a little reminiscent of the U-2 and Pueblo affairs when you allow intelligence activities to get in the way of our diplomacy."

The Arkansas Democrat is one of the group of Senators pressing for more flexibility in United States policy toward China. They had held out hopes that the meeting, after more than a year without formal contacts, could open a new and meaningful dialogue.

Most United States analysts agreed that the citation of the defection was merely a pretext, that some weeks ago the Chinese Communists had decided not to go ahead with the meeting which they had proposed last November.

Taiwan is Major Issue

Statements by President Nixon and other Administration officials had made it clear that there would be no weakening of United States support for the Chinese Nationalist regime on Taiwan—the major point of dispute between Washington and Peking.

Uncertain whether the meeting would actually take place, two United States specialists on China left for Warsaw yesterday to assist Ambassador Stoessel in the talks. They are Paul H. Kreisberg, acting director of the State Department's Office of Asian Communist Affairs and Donald M. Anderson, a Chinese-language officer.

The significant new point in the instructions they were carrying to Warsaw was the American acceptance of discussions toward an agreement about peaceful coexistence.

Peking raised this proposal in its statement of Nov. 26, in which it suggested the meeting. The statement referred to "the five principles of peaceful coexistence" as the basis for a Chinese-American agreement.

These principles, not specified in the note, apparently related to Peking's diplomatic initiatives of the mid-nineteen-fifties, notably the conference of African and Asian nations at Bandung, Indonesia, in April, 1955.

The five principles were: mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual nonaggression, noninterference in internal affairs on either side, equality and mutual benefit in relations, and broad peaceful coexistence.

These were the principles laid down in the April, 1954, Tibet agreement between Premier Chou En-lai and the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal

Nehru of India.

U.S. Unclear of Motives

United States officials frankly confessed they did not know specifically what the Chinese had in mind in putting these forth in the context of United States-China relations, but they considered it worth trying to find out.

United States officials declined to say whether the instructions for the Warsaw meeting also included raising the questions of the six Americans held by the Chinese Communists after three yachts were intercepted last Sunday between Hong Kong and Portuguese Macao.