

Chou's View of the Watergate Case

By C. L. Sulzberger
New York Times

Peking

Relationships between the United States and China have in no way been affected by the Watergate affair, Premier Chou En-lai said in an interview here.

Chou also took the occasion of a 2¼ hour conversation Friday night to strike out against the Soviet Union and said that Moscow is dragging its heels on the chance to settle border differences with Peking in the hopes of finding "other opportunities" to make trouble for the Chinese government.

Chou also displayed great skepticism about the possibility of achieving any kind

of lasting settlement between the Arabs and Israel.

He expressed confidence that "isolationism" would never return to the United States, even if the Democrats were to win the next presidential election, because of the "objective" situation prevailing in the world.

Finally, he indicated that there could be no establishment of full, normal diplomatic relations with Washington until America withdraws all recognition of the Nationalist government on Taiwan and that island reverts to Peking's sovereignty.

The premier said the Watergate affair has had no adverse effect on relations between Peking and Washington.

He added: "We never use the word scandal in discussing this. Since its is entirely your internal affair, we have never published anything about in our press."

Chou then observed that to him the Watergate affair perhaps reflected U.S. political life and U.S. society as a whole, adding:

"You have had such things occur in your society before and undoubtedly will have them again. There are many social aspects interwoven into it. It is better not to discuss this issue."

He said he hopes President Nixon will be able to overcome his present difficulties.

He expressed understanding if far from wholehearted approval of U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union

and added that the superpowers — from which he carefully desengaged China — "have many disputes to settle" and these disputes demonstrate that each wish to surpass the other in a power competition. Moreover, he added, when they manage to settle one question between them, another crops up.

New York Times