

Kissinger: China Amity No

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PEKING, Nov. 14 (Wednesday) — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger last night pledged long-term American friendship with China regardless of "what happens in the United States" or "whatever the administration" in power.

Kissinger gave the sweeping assurance in a toast at a banquet in the Great Hall of the People as he completed 3½ days of meetings here. He headed today for his next stop, Japan.

The new ties created between China and the United States since President Nixon came to Peking nearly two years ago have become "a ne-

cessity for all Americans," Kissinger said.

"No matter what happens in the United States in the future," he told Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and other guests, "the friendship with the People's Republic of China is one of the constant factors of American foreign policy."

Kissinger then went on to make the reassurance even more precise: "The progress that has been made in our relationship will be continued in the years ahead whatever happens in the future and whatever the administration."

The American delegation accompanying Kissinger took pains to deny to reporters that his remarks referred either to the Watergate scandal or to challenges to President Nixon's

tenure in office. All that Kissinger sought to convey, a high official said, was that the present U.S. effort to normalize relations with China is a durable bipartisan policy unaffected by domestic developments.

Kissinger's remarks nevertheless spoke for themselves in the present context. In the past he has publicly expressed alarm about the potential international repercussions of Watergate.

It is not the Watergate scandal as such that officially interests China or affects its relations with the United States, Premier Chou said last month and Chinese officials repeated this week. But China is highly interested in anything that affects the long-range continuity

of its developing ties with the United States, Chinese sources said.

In a 2¾-hour meeting last night Communist Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung, talked with Kissinger in broad conceptual terms about the desired course of U.S.-Chinese relations in the years ahead, Chinese sources said. Mao, 79, seeks a long, predictable relationship with the United States to check what Chinese describe as the constant threat of "a million Soviet troops on our northern borders."

Kissinger indirectly acknowledged last night that a communique on his talks here to be published later today will disclose few if any specific moves ahead. What is important, said Kissinger, is not

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the words in a document" but "a relationship that has been established and a future that we have charted."

Kissinger is believed to have discussed with Mao and with Chou plans to further reduce U.S. forces in Taiwan and possibly in South Korea. Kissinger is expected to stop briefly in South Korea after his visit to Japan.

During Kissinger's talks here Chinese officials publicly and privately have emphasized an unfulfilled objective in the February 1972 Shanghai Communiqué signed at the end of President Nixon's breakthrough visit to Peking. In their section of the Communiqué, the Chinese said: "The Taiwan question is the crucial question obstructing the nor-

malization of relations between China and the United States... Taiwan is a province of China... All U.S. forces and military installations must be withdrawn from Taiwan."

China's principal newspaper, People's Daily, yesterday devoted more than half of its front page to photographs and brief news accounts of Mao's meeting with Kissinger. The accounts told this nation of more than 800 million people that the two men met "in a friendly atmosphere." In China's Marxist terms, those are unusually warm words for a meeting with an American official.

Although the Chinese discount the effect of Watergate on their policies toward the

United States and keep news of the scandal out of the public press, the Watergate inquiry is said to be regularly discussed in detail in the privately circulated "Reference News Service," this news sheet for party and government insiders is distributed daily to about 6 or 7 million subscribers, twice the circulation of People's Daily.

During Kissinger's visit Chinese officials approached some Washington-based newsmen accompanying him for information about the political interplay in the United States over the Watergate scandal and its possible impact on foreign policy.

At the farewell dinner the Americans were hosts and Kissinger said he was leaving China "with a feeling of satis-

faction that progress has been made and with a feeling of warmth about the relationship that has been established."

Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei was cordial in reply but less effusive. He said: "We are confident that the friendship between the Chinese and the American people will grow stronger and stronger in the days to come."

Newsmen who encountered Premier Chou earlier in the day asked if he had any plans to go to the United States. Chou replied: "As long as there is a representative of the Chiang Kai-shek clique (the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan which the United States officially recognizes) how can I go?" He slapped his thigh for emphasis.