

# Nixon Is Still Liked by Mao

## Bangkok

Mao Tse-tung still thinks well of former President Nixon and says the Water-gate scandal was the result of "too much freedom of political expression in the United States," Thai Premier Kukrit Pramoj said yesterday.

Kukrit said during his meeting with Mao in Peking last week, the 81-year-old chairman of the Chinese Communist party told him:

"What's wrong with taping a conversation when you happen to have a tape recorder with you? Most people in America love playing with tape recorders."

Mao said he remembered Mr. Nixon's visit to China in 1973 and added: "Please tell him I still think of him," the Premier reported.

Kukrit talked with news-

men during a reception to celebrate his return from Peking, where he established diplomatic relations between the Chinese Communist regime and his government.

He said Mao complained of pains in his legs and that his eyesight was getting worse, but he refused to wear glasses. They talked for an hour, and Mao's lips were trembling all the time he talked, "but I consider him a healthy man at the age of 81," Kukrit said.

He said Mao told him he should solve the problem of Communist insurgents in Thailand by observing three principles he claimed he used successfully against Chiang Kai-shek in 1949:

- Don't wage propaganda campaigns.

- Don't fight the insurgents because if you send in soldiers, the insurgents will run away into the jungle, and when the soldiers leave the isurgents will return."

Don't kill them because "you will make martyrs of them."

Kukrit told Parliament that the establishment of diplomatic relations with China will not change relations between Thailand and the United States.

From now on Thailand will regard China and the United States as two equal friends," Kukrit said. "We will not think that China is better or more powerful than the United States or the United States is better or more powerful."

*Associated Press*