

Kukrit Says Mao Has Warm Spot for Nixon

BANGKOK, July 9 (AP)—Mao Tse-tung still thinks well of former President Nixon and says the Watergate scandal was the result of "too much freedom of political expression in the U.S.," Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj has reported.

Kukrit said that during his meeting with Mao in Peking last week, the 81-year-old chairman of the Chinese Communist Party commented: "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 Nixon's visit to China in 1972 and added: "Please tell him I still think of him," the prime minister reported.

Kukrit talked with newsmen during a reception to celebrate his return from Peking, where he established diplomatic relations between Thailand and China.

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 Chinese Nationalist leader 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 insurgents will return."
- Don't kill them because "you will make martyrs of them."