

David and Julie to Visit China

Washington — David and Julie Eisenhower will visit China for several weeks, probably in late December, on a private trip arranged two weeks ago by former President Nixon. Mr. Nixon's son-in-law said

yesterday that the trip grew out of an invitation extended to the two Nixon daughters and their husbands by Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai during Mr. Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972.

Eisenhower said a Nixon staff

member at San Clemente telephoned the liaison office of the Peoples' Republic of China in Washington on Mr. Nixon's instruction early this month to ask if it would be possible for the

Back Page Col. 6

From Page 1

Eisenhowers to make the trip.

There have been reports in the past that Mr. Nixon hoped to serve as the first U.S. ambassador to China, but Eisenhower said he does not see the former president's action as an attempt to further any such goal.

"He has not said anything to me about serving in government again," Eisenhower told the Los Angeles Times. "I don't think he has any plans to serve in China. I think he does expect to travel again some day. But I don't see this as anything more than wanting us to have this trip."

"His trip to China was the highlight of his presidency. He just wanted us to have this trip, to have the same opportunity. No one should read anything more

into it — it's just a private trip.

Published reports last February said Mr. Nixon had told several of his closest friends that he would not turn down a chance to become U.S. ambassador to Peking should this country establish full diplomatic relations with China.

Eisenhower said he first learned that a visit might be possible on the evening of October 1 during a lavish reception at the Chinese liaison office celebrating the 26th anniversary of the Chinese republic.

Two weeks later, on October 14, the Eisenhowers dined with China's two top envoys to this country: the head of the liaison office, Huang Chen, and his wife, Chu Lin, also a high-ranking

member of the delegation.

Eisenhower said that a final invitation was extended to the couple during dinner by the Chinese officials and that he and his wife accepted.

The date of the trip has not yet been set, Eisenhower said, but he expects to go in late December.

"We hope to spend several weeks there — probably two," he said. "We just don't have the final details yet. We haven't gotten an itinerary. We don't even know where in the country we will be going."

He said there are no plans at this time for the Eisenhowers to meet with any officials in China.

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