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Nixon to Visit China This Month

Washington

Former President Nixon and his wife will visit China later this month on the fourth anniversary of his 1972 trip, Peking announced yesterday.

The Ford White House, which said it had been informed of the trip only a few hours before Peking announcement, said Mr. Nixon will be traveling as "a private citizen."

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was informed "in general terms" of the Nixon trip during a visit with the former president at San Clemente Monday. Kissinger

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said it was Mr. Nixon's "historic achievement" to have reopened U.S. relations with China, and that "his visit as a private citizen will symbolize that relationship which we expect will grow."

Chinese motives in extending the invitation and making a formal announcement through China's official news were a subject of speculation. AGENCY

Several experts said a sense of personal gratitude toward Mr. Nixon for breaking the postwar freeze in Sino-American relations was among the major considerations.

There was also speculation that the Nixon visit may be intended to display in subtle fashion, a Chinese dissatisfaction with current United States policies.

Mr. Nixon's daughter and son-in-law, David Eisenhower, were given extraordinarily warm treatment during a recent visit to China, including a highly publicized meeting with Communist party chairman Mao Tse-tung.

According to the Eisenhowers, Mao sent a "very warm" personal message that he is waiting to receive Mr. Nixon in person.

"They (the Chinese) associate Richard Nixon with the initiation of relations between the United States and China, and the kind of good old days," David Eisenhower said recently. He added that "it's well advertised that the Chinese are unhappy with the present course of American diplomacy."

Mr. Nixon's second journey to Peking will be his most significant public activity since he left the presidency 18 months ago. His re-entry to the public scene will begin with a Peking arrival February 21.

The timing of the new Nixon visit was made known to the White House Thursday, when the acting chief of the Chinese liaison office in Washington, Han Hsu, called at the White House with a copy of the announcement that was made in China yesterday morning.

Mr. Nixon telephoned the White House Thursday afternoon to inform President Ford in person.

The State Department is arranging clearance for a Chinese aircraft to land at El Toro Marine Air Station, near San Clemente, to pick up the Nixons.

Washington Post - CHINA FILE

*See NYT 7 Feb 76, Shabecoff, third column; copied excerpt, NYT 11 Feb 76, Daniel.