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**U.S. TIES WITH CHINA
HELD VITAL BY NIXON**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 — In his first statement on his plans to revisit Peking, Richard M. Nixon has remarked that the relationship between the United States and China "is, if anything, more important than it was four years ago" when he went as President.

It was announced last week that Mr. Nixon would arrive in Peking, at the invitation of the Chinese, on Feb. 21, the anniversary of his 1972 arrival. His statement was prepared for use in a column in The New York

Times by William Safire, a former member of Mr. Nixon's White House staff. The statement follows:

"In 1972, I went to the People's Republic of China because I concluded that a new and constructive relationship between the United States and the P.R.C. is indispensable if we are to have lasting peace in the Pacific and the world.

"I believe that this relationship is, if anything, more important than it was four years ago. I look forward to seeing again the leader and the people of the P.R.C.

"When I return, I will be spending time in San Clemente completing work on my memoirs."