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Nixon Predicts Closer Ties With China

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Peking

Richard Nixon predicted last night that China and the United States will complete the "bridge of understanding, mutual respect and lasting friendship" begun four years ago.

He told his guests at a banquet closing his visit to Peking that both nations share a common interest in helping to build a "new world in which every nation, large and small, can be free to choose its own way to be independent and to live without fear of aggression from any power."

The Nixons invited 300 guests to the banquet in the Great Hall of the People. The engraved invitations began:

"The Former President of the United States of America and Mrs. Nixon cordially invite."

It was the first time The Great Hall had been used for a banquet given by a private visitor.

At the banquet, Acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng made his first toast to President Ford. In his own banquet for the Nixons Monday night Hua had not mentioned Mr. Nixon's successor in the White House.

Beyond generalities, there has been no announcement on what Nixon and Hua discussed in three



AP Wirephoto

Richard Nixon listened as Chi Chuan of Tsinghua University told of the campaign to disgrace First Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping

meetings totaling more than eight hours.

The White House has emphasized that Mr. Nixon is not on any mission for President Ford.

Nonetheless, Hua said last night that the Nixon visit is of "positive significance." He said they had "candid and unconstrained talks, in which we reviewed the great changes which have taken place in the international situation since 1972 and exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest."

Mr. Nixon also had one hour and 40 minutes with Mao Tse-tung, the Communist party chairman.

In his banquet toast, Mr. Nixon said the bridge began four years ago will "reach all the way from the Golden Gate of California to the golden Gate of Heavenly Peace in Peking."

He said, "skeptics said it would be impossible." He recalled that Mao had said: "Nothing is hard in the world as long as one dares to scale the heights."

During a morning visit to Tsinghua University the chairman of the university's Revolutionary Committee indicated to Mr. Nixon that First Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, chosen by the late Chou En-lai to be his successor as premier, was in disgrace.

In what observers understood

to be a reference to Teng, committee chairman Chi Chuan said as he showed Mr. Nixon a display of wall posters, "he was a capitalist roader who was sharply criticized by the people during the Cultural Revolution and who does not want to correct his mistakes . . ."

"As long as they correct their mistakes, we welcome them back. Whether they do that depends on them. At present the debate is in full swing . . . under the centralized leadership of the party, step by step."

The Nixons also toured an air raid shelter dug beneath a men's clothing store by shop clerks from the area using mostly hand tools over a period of six years. Chinese officials said the shelter had a capacity of 10,000 persons and linked up with a network of other shelters stretching to the suburbs of the city.

"Having a shelter makes it less likely that you'll have to use it," Mr. Nixon told one of his hosts.

The Nixons will leave this morning for two days in Kweilin in the southwest and two in Canton, and then fly home Monday. / 7/4/76

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