

Did Chairman Mao Snub U.S. Delegation?

By Vera Glaser

Washington

Chairman Mao Tse-tung took time to meet Julie and David Eisenhower when they were in China recently, but did not see a delegation of 11 congresswomen invited by the Chinese government. *

The congresswomen were not pleased.

"It was unfortunate that the Chinese created the impression that a delegation with diplomatic status was not as important as Julie and David Eisenhower," said Representative Elizabeth Holtzman (Dem-N.Y.), a member of the group.

Representative Margaret Heckler

(Rep-Mass.), who led the delegation, called the timing "unfortunate."

She admitted that the group was "disappointed" at not meeting Mao but suggested the 85-year-old chairman may not have been up to receiving such a large delegation.

Heckler emphasized, however, that the Chinese "granted four requests to visit places no Americans had been before," including areas in Szechuan province and tunnels equipped as bomb shelters.

Aside from her regret at not meeting Mao, Holtzman said she did not personally feel slighted.

She described their talks with Chinese leaders as lengthy and substantive.

* NYTimes 5 Jan 76.