

# Ford Says 'In Time' He Expects To Talk With Nixon on China

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By JAMES M. NAUGHTON MAR 2 1976

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WASHINGTON, March 1—President Ford said today that "in time" he will probably talk to former President Richard M. Nixon about Mr. Nixon's journey to China.

But the President said that neither he nor Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger planned to "debrief" Mr. Nixon to determine what diplomatic insights he might have gained in more than eight hours of private conversation with Chinese leaders.

Moreover, in an interview that revealed more about the political sensitivity of the Nixon journey than about its possible diplomatic impact, Mr. Ford told a Miami television reporter the timing of the China trip "was very bad from our point of view."

Mr. Ford, whose pursuit of détente with the Soviet Union has been criticized by Ronald Reagan, also said in the interview that he had discarded the word "détente" from his own political lexicon. But Mr. Ford made clear he had not discarded pursuit of rapprochement.

Last August, the President told an American Legion convention he disliked the French word "détente," because it suggested an easing of tension without acknowledging a firmness of national resolve.

"I don't use the word détente any more," he said, today. "I think what we ought to say is that the United States will meet with the superpowers, the Soviet Union and with China and others, and seek to relax tensions so that we can continue a policy of peace through strength."

The President also appeared sensitive to increasing criticism of détente by Mr. Reagan, his rival for the Republican Presidential nomination. Although endorsing continued pursuit of better relations with the Soviet Union and China, Mr. Ford said that the word "détente" was not a satisfactory description of a policy of "peace through strength."

Mr. Nixon's departure for Peking three days before the Feb. 24 Republican Presidential primary in New Hampshire "probably had an unsettling impact" on the President's first campaign encounter with Mr. Reagan, Mr. Ford told Richard Whitcomb of Television Station WCKT in Miami.

The President said, as he had last week in a similar interview, that the political fallout from Mr. Nixon's journey was still being analyzed. But while Mr. Ford had said last week that his predecessor's trip "probably was harmful" to the Ford can-

didacy, he seemed certain of it today.

"People weren't quite sure what was going to happen with the trip, and so I think the timing was very bad from our point of view," he said.

The coolness of the White House toward Mr. Nixon's re-emergence as a world traveler was underscored by the President. He said that if Mr. Nixon had learned anything of value in China—"and it might be or it might not be"—then Mr. Nixon would presumably "contact the proper people."

In the interview, Mr. Ford also suggested that Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama and Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington were doing a disservice to the country by making busing of school children an issue in the Massachusetts Democratic primary tomorrow.

The President did not name either Presidential aspirant, but told the interviewer that "the intensity of the debate" over busing among some candidates "has heightened emotions and probably not helped the situation in several of the cities where it is a controversial issue."

He said that it would be "beneficial" to temper political debate over school busing "so we don't excite and create more emotion."