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Local announcer: A report from Robert Crabbe in Tokyo on the normalization of U.S.-China relations:

Crabbe (network feed): Predictions that the United States may cut its diplomatic ties with Taiwan and give full recognition to the Communist government of China in Peking have been current in Tokyo for about one month.

The latest one comes from ~~xxxxxxx~~ one of America's leading students of Chinese affairs. Professor John K. Fairbank of Harvard University says America may take the step some time around the end of the year. In a speech before the Harvard Club of Japan, Fairbank said the United States may use the formula adopted by Japan when it normalized relations with China in 1972. The Japanese pulled their embassy out of Taiwan and established one in Peking. They did so with the understanding they would continue to trade and invest in Taiwan.

At the time of the Communist revolution in China in 1949, the United States backed the anti-Communist regime of the late Chiang Kai-shek. Chiang lost control of the Chinese mainland, his government retreated to Taiwan, an island off the coast of China. It has remained there ever since, still claiming to be the legal Chinese government. It was not until 1972, 23 years after the revolution, that the United States finally established a liaison office in Peking during the Nixon administration.

Fairbanks thinks that even after giving Peking recognition, the United States will insist that Taiwan be left free to exist as an autonomous part of China, safe from attack by the Communist mainland. This is Robert Crabbe in Tokyo. [end item].

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