

2/26-Early a.m. tobit of the kind I said I thought would come to make a permanent change in popular attitudes about Chinese: the DC all-news station aired a story saying that reporters on the China hegira have learned that there has been a basic change in Chinese since the revolution, and it was so timed. They are now very honest. To the point where a photographer could not throw away worn-out dry cells. One had the same one given back to him by several Chinese...I get to listen to this station on FM or CBS Chicago on a.m. before daylight while I'm making the special kind of coffee I prefer, which requires slow dripping of small quantities of hot water. And to be effecient, that is when I shave, with the electric razor, dress, etc. So, I begin each day with a selection of what is on the wire at a time when there is less high-level consideration of what goes on the wire and of that what goes on the air. It is kind of like the early edition of the NYT, if you have not noticed +

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what to say. I suspect it was because they were afraid to say the "wrong" thing, that is, what they had seen, to report the reality. Nonetheless, with John Rich, Tokyo correspondent and the NBC man a the ping-ponging and one who had spent half his life in the orient, a fair amount of what has to be new about China did get aired. At no point did he reach, as those like Cronkite and Severeid do, for the plain nasty. One of the things I could hardly interpret, not really knowing Chou and how to interpret what he does and does not do, is his visible behavior. The party was quite late leaving the terminal bldg. I did not think it was because they, i.e. C & N were having another meeting, since they were about to spend 2 hrs together in flight. I found myself wondering whether Mao had come to see them off, etc. Anyway, eventually they did emerge and walk to the plane, past the long-suffering military honor guard from the three services, by then standing at attention in the below-freezing windy air. In every other such thing I have seen with dignitaries passing such a guard,

noticed this in your own experience. In a minor way it has been true for years. Before NBC hired him away from their Washington affiliate, which was quite a few years ago, when Ray Scherer did the early a.m. news for WRC it was far and away the most honest news aired in the DC area. It has been true re SVN and was earlier true of Korea. It was also true of me when I did radio news. I was the first one to get to that station, before any engineer or announcer. Sometimes I wrote the news so straight it drove people up the wall... Last night we decided to risk wasting an hour for an NBC China special. Lil was lucky: she just fell asleep again, sitting on the sofa. It ran 30 mins over because of the delay after the Nixon-Chou party got to the airport. They went crazy trying, not always successfully, not to have dead air. And they reran old stuff filmed or taped and aired earlier because I had seen it. With all those reporters having been on this dream assignment, they were at a loss for

regardless of what they think of each other I can't recall a single case of them not being close together. I don't think that at any one time C was as close as a yard away from N & on a number of occasions he was 2 or more yds. away. He never once smiled or looked happy. By the time they got to the local revolutionary committee that had come to say goodbye, C was well in advance of the rest, so far he was actually off camera. Not until the others walked to the stairs to the plane did the camera pick him up again. Nixon used the right rail in ascending. The 73-yr.-old C walked up straight and unassisted. He seems to have some kind of trouble with his right arm, prob. known to you from his history. And when they got on the plane, the camera, long-lense, picked C up sitting by the window and looking out. I can't say whether he was glum, tired, bored, disappointed, disgusted or poker-faced, but he did no waving, no smiling, no looking at the guest of honor. Not like those earling long handshakes. I guess you have to really get to know Nixon...