

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

July 11, 13:30 Z

TO: GENERAL HAIG, WHITE HOUSE

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

1. Conversations were the most intense, important, and far reaching of my White House experience.

Principal host spent 17 hours with us, his associates another four, the latter mostly devoted to communique drafting.

2. Other side first suggested meeting next summer, then fell back to Spring, finally settled on formulation of "before May 1972" which they interpret as from December onward. It is obvious they are planning a big welcome. All technical issues, including size of press corps and prior political visits, settled as President wished. Agreed time for joint announcement which I am bringing back with me is 2230 July 15, D. C. time. They were insistent on mentioning site and cast of weekend meeting.

3. Please inform President that I strongly urge no further dissemination until I return.

4. Please keep everyone steady. Other side made special point about need to keep word meticulously. They will not understand even a minor leak and will consider it deliberate affront and proof of unreliability. Please keep P.R. types ignorant. A leak or even a hint is almost certain to blow everything. I cannot be too strong on this.

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Message from Premier Chou En Lai dated April 21, 1971 (Delivered to Mr. Kissinger - 6:15 P.M., April 27, 1971)

Message from Premier Chou En Lai

Premier Chou En Lai thanked President Yahya for conveying the message of President Nixon on 5 January 1971. Premier Chou En Lai is very grateful to President Yahya and he will be grateful if President Yahya conveys the following verbatim to President Nixon:

"Owing to the situation of the time it has not been possible to reply earlier to the message from the President of the U.S.A. to the Premier of Peoples Republic of China.

"At present contacts between the peoples of China and the United States are being renewed. However, as the relations between China and the U.S.A. are to be restored fundamentally, a solution to this crucial question can be found only through direct discussions between high-level responsible persons of the two countries. Therefore, the Chinese Government reaffirms its willingness to receive publicly in Peking a special envoy of the President of the U.S. (for instance, Mr. Kissinger) or the U.S. Secretary of State or even the President of the U.S. himself for direct meeting and discussions. Of course, if the U.S. President considers that the time is not yet right the matter may be deferred to a later date. As for the modalities, procedure and other details of the high-level meeting and discussions in Peking, as they are of no substantive significance, it

is believed that it is entirely possible for public arrangements to be made through the good offices of President Yahya Kahn."