

PRESS RELEASE

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Members of the second Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars (CCAS) Friendship Delegation to the People's Republic of China arrived in Manila Sunday, after their return to Hong Kong on April 14.

The ³⁰~~30~~ member delegation, most of whom speak and read Chinese, spent five weeks in China from March 10 to April 14. They traveled in two groups with separate itineraries. Places visited included Shanghai, Tientsin, Wuhan, Changsha, Tangshan and Shenyang. The two groups reassembled in Peking for ten days at the end of their journey.

While in Peking the CCAS delegation had a 4½ hour discussion with Premier Chou En-lai in the Great Hall of the People. Present also were Chang Ch'un-ch'iao and Yao Wen-yuan of the Shanghai Revolutionary Committee and Ch'iao Kuan-hua, vice minister of Foreign Affairs. At the request of the Chinese government direct quotations are not being used in reporting the substance of Premier Chou's remarks.

The Premier laid great emphasis in his remarks on the continuing war in Indochina. He stressed that the first step toward a lessening of tensions in Asia was the withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina. Since both Americans and Asians are shedding their blood in the Indo-China War, the solution of this issue takes precedence^{even}/over the problem of Taiwan.

Premier Chou called attention to the Statement of the Foreign Ministry of the PRC of ~~of~~ April 11 which strongly supports the struggle of the people of Vietnam against American imperialism and reaffirms that Vietnam is one nation.

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The Premier also pointed out that China and not the Soviet Union would be directly threatened by further escalation on the part of the United States and firmly stated that the People's Republic of China would make maximum sacrifices in support of the Vietnamese people.

The important changes taking place in the international situation in 1971 were also discussed. Premier Chou noted that the year 1971 marked the failure of America's twenty-year effort to seal off China from the rest of the world. The Premier remarked that the expressed desire of President Nixon to visit China and Dr. Kissinger's presence in Peking at the time of the UN vote had played an important part in the restoration of China's lawful place in the world body. He also made it clear that President Nixon's visit and the change in Sino-American relations would in no way cause China to alter her basic principles in foreign relations. He stated that China would continue to champion the interests of the world's small and medium-sized countries against domination by the super-powers. He discussed the fact that China was already using her seat as a permanent member of the Security Council and her voice in the United Nations towards this end. China herself would never become a super-power.

In reply to a question about the situation in Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Premier reaffirmed China's support for true national self-determination independent of outside interference. He insisted that the government of Bangladesh was created not by the people of that area but by force of Indian arms. However, the Premier said that he did not mean to defend the policies of the former Pakistan government in the Eastern region of that country, for it had done bad things.

Premier Chou criticized India's foreign policy as consistently belligerent toward China. He cited support given by Nehru and Indira Gandhi to the Dalai Lama as well as the use of Tibetan emigres in India to press claims against Chinese sovereignty.

The Premier conveyed a message to Chinese people from Taiwan living in the United States. These people would be welcomed as visitors to China at any time and would be free to leave China as they wished. Hong Kong residents living in the U.S. would be similarly welcomed as Chinese from Chinese territory. In response to a question about whether this also applied to people of Chinese descent living in Southeast Asia, the Premier explained that they would also be welcome, but as foreign nationals, a different category.

While in Peking members of the CCAS delegation were received at the embassies of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and by the mission of the National Liberation Forces of Cambodia. One member of the CCAS delegation was a Korean War veteran, another was a Vietnam War veteran. They both explained to the Korean and Vietnamese embassies that, like many other Americans, they oppose American aggressive policies in Asia.

While in China the CCAS delegation visited factories, rural communes, hospitals, including a mental hospital, city neighborhoods, universities, and prisons. The group visited bureaus of agriculture, education, health, industry and commerce at national, provincial and municipal levels. While in Peking they visited the head offices of the People's Daily, central press organ of the Chinese Communist Party. The delegation also had the opportunity to spend several days living in peasant homes in rural/in ^{communes} Honan and Hopei, two nights in a workers dormitory in Shenyang, and one night in a student dormitory in Peking University.

CCAS is an organization of American students and professors mostly specializing in the study of Asia. It was formed in 1968 to fight against the policies of the American government in Indochina. Since that time it has called for the end of all U.S. interference, both military and political, in the internal

affairs of Asian countries.

The first CCAS friendship delegation visited China for one month in the summer of 1971. The recently published Bantam book, China: Inside the People's Republic, is the account of their experiences. The present delegation intends to carry on the work begun by the first delegation in furthering the development of friendly relations and mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and China.

Most members of the delegation will return to the United States within the next several days to speak and write about the trip. Articles written by the members of the delegation will be distributed by Pacific News Service, 9 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

The two members of the delegation now in Manila are William Joseph and Robert Entenman.