

Chancellor Atkinson to visit China

January 6, 1982

Dr. Richard C. Atkinson, chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, will leave Saturday, January 9, for a ten-day visit to the People's Republic of China under the sponsorship of the National Academy of Sciences.

Atkinson will be part of a group that will meet in Beijing with members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to review the ongoing exchange program of scientists and students between the U.S. and China. The group will also visit scientific, industrial and medical institutes and universities and meet with specialists in the fields of science policy and science management.

It will be Atkinson's fifth visit to China. He first traveled there as director of the National Science Foundation prior to the normalization of relations between the U.S. and China to work toward the establishment of the exchange program. He was eventually responsible for negotiating and signing the first memorandum of understanding in history between the two countries on the exchange of scientists, scholars and students.

The program has proven highly successful bringing many Chinese students and scholars to universities in the United States and sending American students and scholars to work and study in China. UC San Diego has received almost 100 visiting scholars under this program.

While in China, Atkinson is expected to renew acquaintances with Vice Premier Deng Xiao-ping who was a key figure in the initiation of the first exchange and who, according to Atkinson, has taken a personal interest in the exchange program. The chancellor has met with the national political leader on several occasions to discuss various issues of science policy relating to China and the U.S.

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