

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1972

CONFIDENTIAL

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
E.O. 12066, Section 6-102
By cmf NARS, Date 3-2-81

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN SCALI *Jas*

SUBJECT: Pre-China Briefing

I recommend that you hold a pre-China backgrounder in Honolulu on February 18, similar to the "Nixon Doctrine" backgrounder you held on Guam prior to your round-the-world trip.

The purpose, as I see it, would be to:

1. Remind newsmen accompanying you that your purpose is to open a dialogue with China's leaders, not to lay out a blueprint for solving all of Asia's problems. You have emphasized this before but newsmen, who have already been jolted by two major foreign policy surprises, need to be persuaded that you do not have another spectacular you will unveil at the conclusion of your visit. A reaffirmation of your objective will give them a proper yardstick against which to measure the success of your visit.
2. Reaffirm just as you are about to enter China that your visit is not directed against any third country which may be watching, fearing that somehow you are about to make a deal behind their backs, despite what you have said to the contrary in the past.

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The President

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3. Put in perspective any new attack the North Vietnamese may have launched or may initiate while you are in China. If such attacks are already underway, the temptation may be overwhelming for newsmen to indicate that your Peking talks will be aimed at ending the war in Vietnam through some kind of agreement with the Chinese.
4. Take on any of the inflated predictions or warnings voiced by political foes as you depart. These will undoubtedly be on the minds of newsmen accompanying you, along with legitimate last-minute questions stirred up by other news developments.

The session I envision need last no longer than 30-45 minutes. You could prepare for it on the plane enroute to Hawaii and give it early the next day, thus freeing the remainder of your time for preparations for your meetings with Chinese leaders.

I do not believe the briefer should be either Henry Kissinger or the Secretary of State. You are the central figure in this historic journey, the representative of all the American people. Accordingly, the briefer should be President Nixon.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S
PARTY

FROM: DWIGHT L. CHAPIN 

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Items
China - 1972

TO
Pat
McKee
China
File

1. Cameras: There are no restrictions on movie or still photographs; therefore, it is recommended you carry an adequate supply of film and camera equipment. During the January advance, the weather in Peking and Hangchow was generally cloudy.
2. Postcards and stamps: Postcards may be sent to the United States from China. Cards and stamps are available upon request and in the hotel lobbies. It takes approximately ten days for delivery to the United States.
3. Water: Indications are that the tap water in the PRC Guest Houses is safe for drinking. However, it is recommended that only water provided by official PRC sources for drinking be consumed. The safest supply of water is the tea and hot water supplied in vacuum bottles (this can be cooled before drinking). We are not taking bottled water from the U.S.A.
4. Food: Only food cooked in the PRC Guest Houses or offered by the PRC should be eaten.
5. Time: Peking time applies to the whole country. It is 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard time; i.e. when it is 12 midnight in Washington, D.C., it is 1:00 p.m. in Peking; 6:00 p.m. in Washington is 7:00 a.m. in Peking.
6. Tipping: There is no tipping whatsoever in the PRC. The Chinese word for "Thank You" is Hsieh-hsieh -- pronounced "see-eh see-eh".

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 2, 1972
4:20 p.m.

File China
High Priority
[Signature]

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN
FROM: DWIGHT L. CHAPIN *[Signature]*

Per the attached memorandum from Scali to the President, Ziegler concurs with Scali's recommendation.

Henry Kissinger states that the President, under no circumstances, should hold a background briefing in Hawaii. He states that the President has absolutely nothing to gain, and can only lose his flexibility." Henry states that if anyone does it, he should.

In talking to Henry I only asked him about the subject in a general manner. I did not say that there was a memo from Scali.