

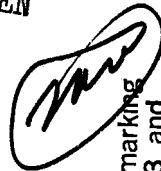
The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “China - Richard Nixon Trip” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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RBC HAS SEEN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



CONFIDENTIAL

March 1, 1976

Mr. President:

Do you want me to get in touch
with Mr. Nixon to offer General
Walters for debriefing of his
China trip?

Yes MC7 No




Brent Scowcroft

CONFIDENTIAL

Determined to be an administrative marking
Cancelled per E.O. 12356, Sec. 1.3 and
Archivist's memo of March 16, 1983

By RAA NARS date 5/24/85

February 24, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing you with regard to a matter that concerns me as a citizen, as a Governor, and as a person who recognizes the efforts you have made to restore faith and respect to the Office of the Presidency of the United States. As such a person, I am very concerned with Former President Nixon's involvement in China. Consequently, I hope you understand that my remarks are compelled by my concern and respect for you, as well as by my concern as a person with the affect Mr. Nixon's visit to China has presently and could have in the future on America, and I hope that you consider my remarks in that light.

Simply stated, Former President Nixon's re-involvement in foreign affairs could seriously affect the already strained credibility of all of the government, and elected officials in particular. It could also negatively impact your efforts to revive public trust. More importantly, it could possibly weaken the public confidence in you as President. At the very worst, the critical esteem of the Presidency could suffer.

It may be that Former President Nixon is acting without portfolio. You told me that Former President Nixon has no commitment or blessing from you. If such is the case, the public deserves to know; for presently the appearance of your involvement exists, grows in magnitude, and remains unrefuted.

I do not know whether China is manipulating and exploiting the situation, or whether innocence coupled with bad judgment is responsible. In any event, I respectfully urge you to address the problem affirmatively by publicly announcing your concern so that America and the world will officially know of your concerns.



I recognize and share your compassion for the former President as a human being. However, reflecting on our discussion yesterday I now implore you to protect the dignity of our nation and our system by eliminating even the "appearance of impropriety".

I feel you demonstrate the highest of ethical standards and one by which we all must abide during this critical time in our history. As you know, it is important that we round the corners from past mistakes and endeavor to revive the spirit of governmental responsiveness and accountability. We cannot afford to allow the cohesive fiber of our society to deteriorate. Already, negativism is a sickness fastly becoming an epidemic. I firmly believe that if you fail to positively address and explain your position, you will be fostering an environment in which negativism and skepticism will grow and possibly infect our nation.

Again, I very much respect your integrity and sincerity, and because of my respect I ask you to consider the above.

Very truly yours,

Jim Longley
James B. Longley
Governor
State of Maine

P.S. Have once again today.... refused to abandon or even moderate my expressed belief in and support of you at least at this time, regardless of the outcome in New Hampshire.... because I still believe in you and want to help.... otherwise I wouldn't waste your time or mine in this effort -
Jim



Gov. Jim Longley
MAINE

Very important

Personal and
Confidential

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

