



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum

www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov

Library: 1000 Beal Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Museum: 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

(734) 205-0555 fax (734) 205-0571
(616) 254-0400 fax (616) 254-0386

CORE COLLECTIONS ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

The years 1972-76 saw dramatic developments toward normalized diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC). In 1972, President Nixon made his historic visit to the PRC, and Congressional leaders Hale Boggs and Gerald Ford made a bipartisan follow-up trip. Secretary of State Kissinger continued this initiative through the Nixon-Ford transition, culminating in President Ford's December 1975 visit to Beijing. Shortly thereafter, the PRC entered a period on uncertainty with the death of Chairman Mao Zedong and the temporary purging of Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping. Meanwhile, on the island of Taiwan, the Republic of China (ROC) followed developments warily and endured the passing of its leader, Chiang Kai-shek, a U.S. ally since World War II.

The Ford Library has extensive archival materials from this period, plus some earlier and later materials. Core "open" collections are summarized below, but many additional collections also hold valuable material. The Library's PRESNET database currently points to almost 2,000 folder and file-series titles of China-related material across numerous collections. Database searches are available upon request.

The **Digital Library** section of our website, www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov, includes a gallery of select on-line documents and photos from Ford's 1972 and 1975 visits to the PRC. The website also offers a comprehensive Guide to Collections, plus detailed inventories to all "open" collections.

Research room hours are 8:45 am to 4:45 pm, Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. Telephone (734) 205-0555. E-mail ford.library@nara.gov.

FORD, GERALD R.: Congressional Papers, 1948-73

The Legislative Issues File, Press Secretary and Speeches/Public Statements File, and Robert T. Hartmann Files of the Ford Congressional Papers contain material relating to U.S. relations with the PRC and ROC. In addition to material concerning the trip made by Congressmen Boggs and Ford (see next entry), the collection also includes reference files and constituent mail reacting to admittance of the PRC to the United Nations and President Nixon's 1972 visit to the PRC.

HARTMANN, ROBERT T.: Papers, (1884) 1934-83

In 1972, in the wake of President Nixon's historic visit to China, Hartmann traveled to China with a congressional delegation led by House Majority Leader Hale Boggs and Minority Leader Gerald Ford. Boxes 41-44 contain materials from this trip, including reports to President Nixon and the House of Representatives, transcripts of discussions with Chinese leaders, press materials, and Hartmann's personal journal. Many years earlier, in 1938, young Robert Hartmann had visited

Japanese-occupied Manchuria as part of a post-college world tour. Boxes 12-13 contain miscellaneous publications collected on the trip and unpublished news articles by the aspiring journalist.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. KISSINGER REPORTS ON USSR, CHINA, AND MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSIONS, 1974-76

*This collection is fully available on-line in our **Digital Library**.* It includes reports to the President and memoranda of conversations from Secretary of State Kissinger's meetings with Chinese leaders in China in November 1974 and October 1975, and New York City in September 1975. There are also memoranda of conversations from President Ford's meetings in Beijing in December 1975. Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and Deng Xiao Ping are among the discussants.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. KISSINGER-SCOWCROFT WEST WING OFFICE: Files, (1973) 1974-77

Boxes 4-6 concern China. They include a set of numbered documents, called "China Exchanges," showing direct communications between U.S. and Chinese officials from May 1, 1973 through December 24, 1975. The boxes also include a set of unnumbered documents that are not limited to direct exchanges. The files cover a broad range of subjects within the context of the normalization process, including: the Vietnam War, détente and the Soviet Union, Taiwan, President Ford's trip to China, and domestic issues faced by both countries.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS, 1973-77

*This collection is fully available on-line in our **Digital Library**.* It consists of declassified transcript-like records of President Ford's discussions with foreign leaders, U.S. defense and foreign policy officials, and others. Similar records for some of President Nixon's 1973 conversations are also included. Chinese leaders participated in many of these conversations, and China was a topic of discussion in many others.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. NSC EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS STAFF: Files, (1969) 1973-76

Several series in this collection, especially the "Country Files" and "Richard H. Solomon Subject Files," contain material on the PRC and the ROC. The documents concern a broad range of topics, including the development of diplomatic relations and the expansion of trade and cultural exchanges between the United States and the PRC. Other topics include: Korea, the Soviet Union, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the appointments and tenures of George H. W. Bush and Thomas Gates as Chiefs of the United States Liaison Office in Peking, visits of U.S. congressional delegations to China, and President Ford's 1975 trip.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN LEADERS, 1974-77

This collection of letters and telegrams includes correspondence with Premier Chiang Ching-kuo (ROC), Premier Chou En-lai (PRC), and Premier Hua Kuo-feng (PRC). The correspondence is both routine courtesy and substantive in nature. Substantive topics include the President's trip to China and the U.S. relationship with Taiwan in light of the normalization process.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. PRESIDENTIAL COUNTRY FILES FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: Files, 1974-77

The files contain substantive White House, National Security Council, and State Department materials concerning many facets of U.S. policy and relations with both the PRC and the ROC.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. TRIP BRIEFING BOOKS AND CABLES OF HENRY KISSINGER, 1974-76

The collection contains files for Secretary Kissinger's trip to China in October 1975 in advance of the President's visit in December. The files consist of briefing books, Kissinger's messages for the

President, and communications between Kissinger and the White House and State Department. The communications include information on media coverage of the meetings with Chinese officials, quotes from current newspaper reports, and press briefing materials.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. TRIP BRIEFING BOOKS AND CABLES OF PRESIDENT FORD, 1974-76

This collection contains briefing books and background materials in support of President Ford's 1975 trip to China. The materials, prepared for both the President and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, cover bilateral and international issues to be discussed with Chinese leaders. Briefing books for Mrs. Ford and Susan Ford, who accompanied the President, are also included. *The briefing book for President Ford's meeting with Mao Zedong is available on-line in our Digital Library.*

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, 1974-77

Several Situation Room subcollections are rich in material on events in China and Taiwan: **Presidential Daily Briefings, Intelligence Briefings for Former President Nixon, Evening Reports from NSC Staff, and Noon and Evening Notes.**

UNITED STATES-CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL: Records, 1973-88

Initially called the National Council for United States-China Trade, this organization of member businesses was created with the support of the U.S. government to facilitate trade in accordance with the Shanghai Communique. The organization evolved to become active in all forms of business and commercial relations. The records show the role of the Council in escorting U.S. delegations to China and hosting Chinese delegations in the U.S., facilitating U.S. attendance at Chinese trade fairs, providing business advisory services to its member companies, sponsoring conferences, and conducting a publications, library services, and research programs. Only the 1973-82 records are currently open.

U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL: Institutional records, 1974-77

The official records of the Ford-era NSC include materials relating to NSSM 212 "U.S. Security Assistance to the ROC," NSSM 235 "U.S. Interests and Objectives in the Asia-Pacific Area," NSDM 261 "Nuclear Sales to the PRC," and NSDM 339 "U.S. Force Reductions on Taiwan."

AUDIOVISUAL COLLECTIONS

The AV collections include an extensive photograph record of Ford's 1972 and 1975 visits to China. *Our Digital Library includes, on-line, the contact sheets of all photos taken by White House photographers during the December 1975 visit.* Our AV collections also include video of U.S. television evening news coverage of the 1975 trip. The Chinese government made a gift of film from the 1975 visit, and that film is in the collection Naval Photographic Center Films.

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