

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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23. Memcon	Re: Welcoming Banquet in Beijing, China (2 pp.)	2/25/89	(b)(1)	S

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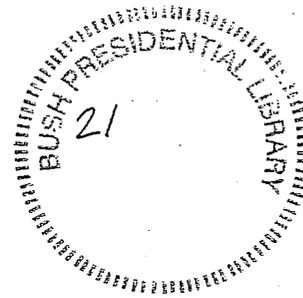
P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Welcoming Banquet in Beijing, China

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.
The President
Vivian Chang, Interpreter and Notetaker

China
President Yang Shangkun
Premier Li Peng

DATE, TIME and PLACE: February 25, 1989, 7:40 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Great Hall of the People, Beijing, China

Pakistan

The President asked Yang's and Li's opinions on Bhutto's ability to remain a strong leader.

Yang and Li both agreed that she can stay in power as long as she can get along with the military.

The President remarked that it was encouraging to see that Yaqub Khan has remained her foreign minister despite his past closeness to Zia.

Yang disclosed, however, that she had another foreign policy advisor seated next to her when she visited China. This person (name not mentioned) was apparently jailed during Zia's rule.

The President mentioned his concern with his ability to certify to Congress that Pakistan was not building a nuclear weapon, but was encouraged by Bhutto's assurances in Tokyo.

Soviet Union

The President spoke at some length about Gorbachev's ability to succeed at Perestroika.

Yang and Li both hoped he succeeds, but Yang predicted it would be at least ten years before they will see any results because it has taken China that long (since the 1978 Third Plenum) to see results. Yang noted that Kissinger was just in China to see him and as very pessimistic about Gorbachev.

The President said he was aware of Kissinger's views.

The President pointed out one major problem the Soviet Union has that China does not in carrying out reforms, i.e., Soviet satellite countries like Poland and Hungary wanting to reform more quickly than the Soviets would like.

Li remarked that China would not welcome the kind of labor problems that Poland is experiencing with Solidarity.

The President said that his senior advisors are undertaking a review to determine what steps to take next vis-à-vis the Soviet Union. His aim is to devise an attractive proposal to cut back on personnel in order to save on the defense budget.



(b) (1)

Toast

Li remarked that he enjoyed the President's toast, but would point out just one thing -- that China is not a nuclear power on the same footing as the U.S. (referring to page 2, last paragraph). He said China has nuclear "power" (as in nuclear energy), but does not have a lot of nuclear weapons.

The President said he would be careful next time with the word "power" if it might be misinterpreted in Chinese.

[Interpreter's note: In general, the atmosphere during the dinner was very cordial. Both Li and Yang seemed interested and participated in the conversation equally.]