

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting between the President and Chinese Ambassador Zhu Qizhen

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Douglas Paal, Senior Director for Asian Affairs

Ambassador Zhu Qizhen  
Mr. Yang (Tiger) Jiechi, Deputy Director, American and Oceanian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: August 3, 1992, 3:49 p.m. EDT  
Residence

The President: Tiger, what brings you here? (U)

Mr. Yang: I am here with the Vice Minister in charge of the State Planning Commission. We are here to buy cars. (U)

Ambassador Zhu: They are buying cars from Chrysler, Ford, and GM. This has been very well reported in the media. (U)

The President: I saw it. But that was some time ago. Tiger, the first thing I want to do is see pictures of your kids. (U)

Mr. Yang: Instead of bringing pictures I wanted to bring money to buy cars. My daughter is 3 1/2. We have your picture from Chase Untermeyer's wedding with you and Chase and Diana. My daughter sees you in that picture every day. (U)

The President: What are you doing in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? (U)

Ambassador Zhu: He is Deputy Director of the American and Oceanian Affairs Department. (U)

The President: You are not doing much translating anymore. How is your wife? (U)

Ambassador Zhu: She is here in Washington. (U)

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The President: As long as we are having this social visit, I would like to compare notes on the relationship. I have not changed my view that it is in the interest of the United States to have the best possible relationship with China. The relationship is not in the best possible shape. We are not happy with our trade imbalance, even though we are pleased with your car purchases. We have our problems with human rights, but I remember well your leaders who said that we should remember that the Chinese must feed 1 billion people every day. I will never forget that. As you know, we are still locked in the MFN struggle. I am also locked in a tough election fight. We are going to win. One issue for the other side, which is joined in by all the editorial writers, is the relationship with China. Clinton will demagogue the issue. We have others on our side joining in. There are congressional opponents like Nancy Pelosi, and we have our differences with them. (S)

I have to be strongly committed to human rights, as I truly am. I have to say there has been a lot of change in the world. Of course, we are champions for democracy. I believe economic change helps produce these results. You may have a difference on that. (b)(1)

(b)(1) I know you have let some prisoners out. That prison labor Memorandum of Understanding is very constructive. We don't ask that you establish a two-party system, with Republicans and Democrats in downtown Beijing. Brent Scowcroft, Doug, here, know that it will be a tougher fight this year, probably because it's an election year. The other side will try to relive Tiananmen, using film in their political advertisements. (b)(1)

Mr. Paal: Mr. President, you probably have not heard the Democratic leader is trying to schedule a vote for MFN for this coming Friday. (U)

The President: What can we do? (U)

Mr. Paal: The best thing would be no bad news, if China can control its reaction to events and if China can find a way to support pragmatically the proposal for a bilateral human rights commission, that would be helpful. (S)

Ambassador Zhu: May I say a few words? (U)

The President: Yes. (U)

Ambassador Zhu: First, we appreciate what you have done to preserve and restore the relations between our two countries. We appreciate very much that you fight almost every year for our Most Favored Nation status. You fight for its extension. This year you are doing it for the third year. As Li Peng, at Rio, and Jiang Zemin, on other occasions, have said, there is not any foreign leader who enjoys a friendship with all of China's leaders. You have met all of them. On MFN, China has done a lot by acceding to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), by observing the guidelines and parameters of the missile technology

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control regime, by reaching an agreement and signing a Memorandum of Understanding on intellectual property rights (IPR). If there is one thing that we can do in the next few weeks, that would be reaching an agreement on market access. At the same time we hope that the U.S. will continue its support for China.

(S)

The President: We should get these things out in public. The MOU is to be signed in Washington in two days. It's timely. (S)

General Scowcroft: Over the weekend, 60 Minutes ran its story on the prison labor problem. They almost did not reveal that the program was already a year old. (S)

The President: That's what we are up against. (S)

Ambassador Zhu: Another point, if we can avoid any negative developments. I'd like to take up one thing that I've read about in news reports, the issue of F-16s to Taiwan. We think that such an issue will produce a great deal of concern. I have no instructions. (S)

The President: This is a very complicated issue. We hope you people know that we have big problems here with jobs. We also have a sale to Saudi Arabia of F-15s. You should understand that if I don't carry Texas, I am not going to be President. Now we have made no decision on this. But I have got Texas, there are 5,000 plus people being put out of work, and that is what greeted me when I went down there. China has not made it easier by acquiring SU-27s. It is appropriate that you raise this issue. There has been no decision on this thing at all. The big problem is in my home state and in Missouri, where all these people work. It's easy for the anti-PRC people to beat me on the head over this. (S)

Ambassador Zhu: In all candor, as I said, I'm uninstructed, I must tell you that the government will take this very seriously. You have the August 17 Communique. If you sell the F-16s to Taiwan, there will be a very serious reaction and damage to relations. (S)

The President: Let me tell you this. I don't care what Mr. Holdrooke says about Clinton's attitude toward China, if that Administration comes in, the situation must get worse. The policy then will be to have China dutifully report to the Senate. I urge you to take the broadest possible view. I have no hesitation that you report this conversation accurately. (S)

Ambassador Zhu: May I send your assessment to the leaders? (U)

The President: Sure. (b)(1) It is tough right now, especially on this issue where it is almost unanimously against me. I know something that you don't. All this partisan carping says that I don't care about human rights. They will probably go back to an unreal world. (S)

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Mr. Yang: I'm very glad to see Mr. President looking so healthy.  
(U)

The President: Did you see our good friend Untermeyer? (U)

Mr. Yang: We saw them and had a dinner together in Beijing. (U)

The President: I appreciate that on short notice you came over here. I have great respect for you. Please do all that you can do. Are there meetings going on at Beidaihe? (U)

Ambassador Zhu: All the leaders go to Beidaihe. They discuss issues pertaining to the 14th Party Congress coming in the last quarter of the year. (U)

The President: Will we see a change of faces? (U)

Ambassador Zhu: They will decide the leader of the party. Then the change of government leaders will be four to five months later. At the Plenary Session of the National Peoples Congress, probably in April, 1993. The five-year terms will be coming to an end, and they will elect a new President and Prime Minister.

Mr. President, the situation in China is excellent. The economy is booming. (U)

The President: Well, thank you all very much. I have to move on a tight schedule. Very glad to have seen you. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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