

4 June 1976

STATEMENT

Several news stories today referred to an article entitled, "Chinese Politics and American Policy," by Mr. Roger G. Brown, which appears in the current issue of the publication Foreign Policy. Mr. Brown is an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Despite the fact that the article clearly states that the opinions expressed in it are the personal views of Mr. Brown and do not reflect an official position of the Central Intelligence Agency, it has been speculated that the article might be an official "trial balloon" or reflect a softening of U. S. policy towards the People's Republic of China.

The Central Intelligence Agency makes every effort to avoid taking positions on foreign policy issues and discourages its employees from taking any action which might be interpreted as an official position on such matters. In fact, CIA regulations require employees to submit any article, which they propose to publish, to the Agency for its approval. While Mr. Brown followed this procedure, some changes were made in the article by Mr. Brown, in consultation with the publishers, after approval for publication had been given. The Agency is taking appropriate action in this case but wishes to re-emphasize that the opinions expressed in the article are solely those of Mr. Brown.

George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, has directed that Agency regulations and procedures governing publication of professional articles by CIA personnel be re-examined to insure, insofar as possible, that any instances of this sort that may be misinterpreted are eliminated. This does not mean that CIA intends to stifle the publication of unclassified articles by its employees in their professional fields. It does mean, however, that Agency employees will be prohibited from publishing articles having foreign policy implications as well as those containing information affecting the national security.

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