

CPYRGHT

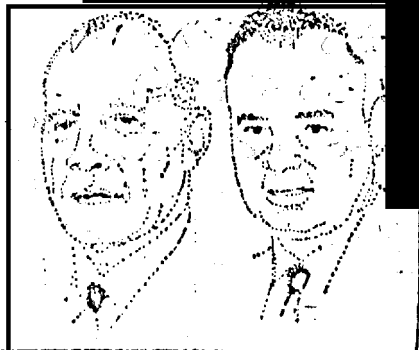
LAS VEGAS SUN

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-  
JANUARY 25, 1965

# ALLEN - SCOTT REPORT

Inside Washington

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT



CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

## Red Chinese Extend Feelers

FOIAb3b

FOIAb3b

WASHINGTON — Red China

is putting out feelers for discussions with the U.S. through non-diplomatic channels, preferably prominent businessmen with close White House ties.

War-racked Southeast Asia, the future of Formosa and Korea, and trade are the indicated principal subjects of the proposed informal talks.

This profoundly significant overture has been conveyed by Alvin Hamilton, Conservative member of the Canadian Parliament and the former agriculture minister who negotiated his country's first huge wheat sale to Communist China.

Hamilton spent four days in Washington last week conferring with top State Department and other administration officials and leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. His unannounced meetings with these key senators were arranged by the State Department.

### KEY LEGISLATORS

One session was a luncheon. Among those present were Sens. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., chairman, Bourke Hickenlooper, Iowa, ranking Republican, and Frank Church, D-Idaho, sharp critic of U.S. involvement in South Viet Nam.

Also on hand was Thomas Hughes, director of State Department intelligence and research, who took extensive notes of the views expressed by the senators.

Sen. George Aiken, Vt., second-ranking Republican committeeman, who was unable to be at the luncheon, later had a half-hour talk with Hamilton at the request of the State Department.

These backstage Washington soundings were preceded by a visit of more than a month that Hamilton made to Peking late last year.

During this stay he conferred with Premier Chou En-lai and others.

In Hamilton's talks with the senators, he expressed willingness to act as intermediary in getting a "non-diplomatic dialogue" underway between the U.S. and the Mao Tze-tung regime.

### POSSIBLE SPOKESMEN

At the luncheon with the foreign relations committeemen, there was considerable discussion of well-known and highly respected personalities who might be sought to meet with the Red Chinese.

Two internationally known names mentioned were John McCloy, one-time high commissioner for Germany, former head of the World Bank, ex-chairman of the board of Chase Manhattan Bank, and head of the Ford Foundation, and General Alfred Gruentier, one-time NATO commander, former head of the American Red Cross, and director of the New York Life Insurance Co.

According to Hamilton, UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson and Sen. Fulbright also would be acceptable. He stated that when he mentioned their names to Premier Chou En-lai, the latter expressed approval.

To this information Fulbright replied he was not interested in personally becoming involved in such an undertaking. The Arkansan stated he had "no objections" to the launching of such informal discussions, but did not want to participate in

### RUSK FAVORS

The senators also were informed that Secretary Dean Rusk favors the proposed informal talks.

It was stressed, however, that the State Department heads want the "initiative" for proceeding with such an exchange of views to come from the Foreign Relations Committee. Rusk was said to deem this precaution advisable to safeguard the administration from possible attack on the ground of "making a secret deal" with the Chinese Feds.

In Hamilton's discussions with Chou En-lai the latter voiced particular interest in obtaining U.S. industrial equipment and surplus grain and other commodities.

To Sen. Aiken, Hamilton expressed the opinion, "It will be only a relatively short time before your country will be trading with Communist China. That's inevitable because of the growing pressure by your business people, particularly on the West Coast."

The Canadian leader also stated his country expects to continue selling large quantities of wheat to Peking for at least another five years.

continued