

sent in envelope directly to Buttarfiy Nancy

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION
September 14, 1970

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

State Dept. review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

OSD review completed

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*
SUBJECT: Contact with the Chinese

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

In response to an item on Communist Chinese activity in the September 9 Daily Brief, you asked whether we should not try again through our channel in Paris to contact the Chinese.

As suggested in your note, we do have an offer outstanding to the Chinese. Attached is a copy of a message that we gave General Walters on June 16, but which he has not yet delivered. (You, of course, approved this message but we left it purposely unsigned. Walters would not hand over the text, but rather would read from it literally.) Several weeks ago he found an opportunity to tell his Chinese contact that he had an important message from our government to their government. The man said that he would inform his government that we had a message, but Walters received no response. This past Monday, September 7, Walters again told his contact, at a Pakistani reception, that he had a message. The man again said that he would tell his government.

We have also been trying since the beginning of the year to open a channel through the Dutch, but I believe if we are to have any success it will be through Paris.

I agree that it would be useful to establish contact with the Chinese at this time. However, we have made clear signals, and I think we have no choice but to wait and see if they are willing to respond.

MORI per PAGES 2-3 of
C03420785

Attachment

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MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED BY
MAJOR GENERAL VERNON A. WALTERS
TO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT

The United States Government wishes to continue the exchanges that are taking place through the Ambassadorial talks in Warsaw. However, it is difficult to maintain complete secrecy in these talks due to their formal nature, the large number of officials involved and the great public interest that they have generated.

If the Government of the People's Republic of China desires talks that are strictly confidential and not known by other countries, the President is ready to establish an alternative channel directly to him for matters of the most extreme sensitivity. Its purpose would be to bring about an improvement in US-Chinese relations fully recognizing differences in ideology.

We are prepared to activate such a channel through the bearer of this communication, Major General Vernon A. Walters, the U. S. Defense Attache accredited to the French Government in Paris. We are also ready to send a high-level personal representative of the President to Paris, or some other mutually convenient location, for direct talks on U. S. - Chinese relations.

Knowledge of these talks would be confined to the President, his personal advisors, and his personal representative unless otherwise agreed.

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15/ Richard Helms