

OUTLINE OF REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

University of Minnesota  
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1949

Peking-

The trip to China was an exciting opportunity for me. Our information on China has been limited since the end of the revolution in 1949.

The Chinese also have a great curiosity about Americans.

Agree  
- 4/1/74  
- illustrate  
- concentration  
- much more

Health, Educ - People  
open

In spite of past propaganda, the people were very open and friendly. They responded readily to every wave or smile. And there was little evidence of a heavy restrictive atmosphere.

My most startling impression was the great industry and dedication of these people. People work hard and for very long hours.

People are rewarded in terms of the contribution they make. Not all jobs bring the same pay.

I was able to talk to ordinary people about what they earn and spend.

Shanghai  
- Harbor  
- Industry  
- children

The commune is the center in organizing the work brigades, and it makes the calculations as to what members shall receive, after calculating expenses.

The commune is the economic focal point, and it attempts to take care of its elderly people and be as nearly self-sufficient as possible.

While I did not see nearly all of the country, and while China has imported grains from the West, it would appear that she may be nearly self-sufficient in terms of food.

Through extensive hand labor, the people have pushed back the mountains, developed terraces and farmed areas we wouldn't consider using. Extensive irrigation ditches also have been dug by hand.

The Chinese also have a water conservation program. In many areas the rainfall is concentrated in a few short months, and moisture conservation measures are extremely important. An extensive program of reforestation also has been undertaken with rows of trees planted along most roads.

I have always felt that a country which took care of its soil and trees would also take good care of its people.

The Chinese people seem absorbed in their internal domestic development. I don't see them as a major player in the world arena at this time.

They concede as much by admitting that many of their official statements are for public consumption.

Obviously, they are still very much concerned with the Soviet Union, and they feel we are naive to place much trust in Russia. They are prepared to explain why the Soviets cannot be trusted.

The Chinese are a very polite and tactful people. Hence, they were not inclined to speak freely about the United States.

They, too, are also just beginning to discover the United States again, and their information is somewhat lacking about us.

This was an exciting trip for me and Mrs. Humphrey. I would not claim to be an expert yet, but I did learn a great deal.

I hope that many of you will have the same opportunity in the near future.

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