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Message from Premier Chou En Lai dated April 21, 1971 (Delivered to Mr. Kissinger - 6:15 P.M., April 27, 1971)

Message from Premier Chou En Lai

Premier Chou En Lai thanked President Yahya for conveying the message of President Nixon on 5 January 1971. Premier Chou En Lai is very grateful to President Yahya and he will be grateful if President Yahya conveys the following verbatim to President Nixon:

"Owing to the situation of the time it has not been possible to reply earlier to the message from the President of the U.S.A. to the Premier of Peoples Republic of China.

"At present contacts between the peoples of China and the United States are being renewed. However, as the relations between China and the U.S.A. are to be restored fundamentally, a solution to this crucial question can be found only through direct discussions between high-level responsible persons of the two countries. Therefore, the Chinese Government reaffirms its willingness to receive publicly in Peking a special envoy of the President of the U.S. (for instance, Mr. Kissinger) or the U.S. Secretary of State or even the President of the U.S. himself for direct meeting and discussions. Of course, if the U.S. President considers that the time is not yet right the matter may be deferred to a later date. As for the modalities, procedure and other details of the high-level meeting and discussions in Peking, as they are of no substantive significance, it

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is believed that it is entirely possible for public arrangements to be made through the good offices of President Yahya Kahn."