

[20093001]



Relations between China and the U.S. have been tense since June 7, when Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi and his wife, Li Shuxian, took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

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Shortly afterwards, Mr. Bush imposed a series of anti-China sanctions, including suspension of most high-level talks, which could be codified in U.S. congressional legislation in the coming weeks.

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Mr. Nixon met Mr. Bush and his national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, before coming to China on Saturday.

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And he plans to brief the president at the end of the week. U.S. sources said.

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Mr. Nixon was to leave China today.

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According to an American member of the Nixon party, the former president raised a number of controversial issues in his 20 hours of talks with top-level Chinese officials.

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These included China's economic policies, human rights and the question of Mr. Fang.

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Mr. Nixon also proposed that China restore its participation in the Fulbright Program, a U.S. government-funded academic exchange.

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China pulled out of the program in July.

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In his talks, the former president urged China's leaders to acknowledge that their nation is part of the world community and welcome the infusion of outside contacts and ideas.

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"Ideas are going over borders, and there's no SDI ideological weapon that can shoot them down," he told a group of Americans at the U.S. Embassy on Wednesday.

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But in one minor matter, Mr. Nixon appears to have gained a concession.

In a meeting with Premier Li Peng on Monday , Mr. Nixon said that he hoped ev-w1615f1 he would n't encounter guards with machine guns during his visit to the U.S. Embassy .

Sure enough , when he arrived at the embassy two days later , the machine-gun-toting guards were gone ev-w1484f13 - for the first time in five months .

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Moreover , police and soldiers continue to harass Americans , who have filed several protests with the Foreign Ministry in the past week .

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