February 22, 1948

THOUGHTS ON CHINA

Prologue to the Present
The Present Predicament
The Most Probable Future
Relations with Others

The term "madness" has been applied to the present climate in Peking, in some ways it is not inappropriate. But to a Chinese, because of the historical prologue to the present and because of the Chinese way of viewing China and the world, much of the "madness" is explained as inescapable logic and reason.

December 8, 1947

A night's telephone call from Peking; he is overjoyed about the Japanese attack on Korea. He is so happy about it that I am happy with him, though I am not too sure about the final advantage of what has happened. But thing is now the same: that America will order the Japanese, and that the Chinese will stay. That America will be long that she will be able to realize all potential forces. This will be an ideal time to the King, who was pleased with the event. He sided by admiring him for being pleased with the event, for a long time he has wanted the real relations between two. Per a long time he has wanted the real relations between two.
A CLOSER LOOK AT…

U.S. Declassified Documents Online’s greatest value lies in the wealth of facts that it provides in connection with the political, economic, and social conditions of the United States and other countries. Content highlights the real stories behind the media coverage. Access to a diverse range of material, such as telephone conversations, memos, cables and reports, provides a unique insight into the inner workings of the US government and its relation to world events in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

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WORLD WAR II – DIARY OF GALEAZZO CIANO, SON-IN-LAW OF MUSSOLINI

“If these notes of mine ever see the light, it will be because I took the precaution of putting them in a safe place before the Germans seized me by base trickery”

A 616-page Diary of Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini’s son-in-law Galeazzo Ciano, written from January 1939 to Feb 8th 1943. Ciano records details and dates regarding: Mussolini’s allegiance with German Chancellor Adolf Hitler; Ciano’s influence in securing Italy’s entry into World War II in 1940; major events occurring during World War II; America’s entrance in the war after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour; Italy’s political turmoil during the war…Ciano was the Italian Prime Minister from 1936 to February 1943 when he was arrested by the German army. He was executed in Verona, Italy by the Germans and Mussolini partisans on 11th Jan 44.

The below is an account from December 8th 1941, Ciano’s entry the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.

December 8, 1941

A night telephone call from Ribbentrop; he is overjoyed about the Japanese attack on America. He is so happy about it that I am happy with him, though I am not too sure about the final advantages of what has happened. One thing is now certain: that America will enter the conflict, and that the conflict will be so long that she will be able to realize all her potential force. This morning I told this to the King who had been pleased about the event. He ended by admitting that in the "long run" I may be right. Mussolini was happy too. For a long time he has wanted the real relations between America and the Axis to be definitely clarified.


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WORLD WAR II - THE IMPACT OF THE US ATOMIC BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA, MAJOR GENERAL LESLIE GROVES

The decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan, to destroy Nagasaki and Hiroshima remains controversial to this day. There are various records in USDDO that provide insight into the reactions at the time, including eyewitness accounts and scientists and doctors’ interviews and response to the Japanese reporting. Events before and after are also included and highlight the massive consequences that this political decision has had since.

Below is a 'flash report from the vital plane by Captain Parsons' and records how the attack was relayed to Washington.

THE SUMMER OLYMPICS, MEXICO 1968

The run up to the Summer Olympics certainly wasn’t smooth. Student protests in Mexico leading up to the event caused anxiety about the safety of President Nixon should he attend. Reports in USDDO illustrate the decision that he would visit the Olympic village as a private citizen rather than as a guest of the Mexican government to avoid ruffling feathers.

There was concern and a belief that it was a Communist tactic to start or inflame student protests before the games and evoke security fears.

What wasn’t predicted was the protest by 200-metre gold and bronze medal winners, African American athletes, Smith and Carlos respectively, during their medal ceremony. Silver medallist Peter Norman, a white Australian runner, didn’t raise his fist that day, but stood with Smith and Carlos. His show of solidarity ended up destroying Norman’s athletic career, and the three athletes’ actions that day would become known as one of the most overtly political statements in the history of the modern Olympics. The International Olympic Committee reportedly decided that the act was ‘out of place in Olympic context’ and forced the USOC to suspend them.
HOSTING HEADS OF STATE

Biographical sketches, profiles of royals, statesmen (and women) and international officials are all included in Department of State and White House sources. Information, talking points and overviews of countries are provided to US Presidents and can provide minute detail on personalities, relationships, and idiosyncrasies. In the document below, Eisenhower and staff are provided with details about Prime Minister Nehru before his visit to the US in 1956. Levels of detail include food, gifts, topics of conversation and what kind of leisure activities Nehru has a preference for.

Nehru – hosted by Eisenhower

PERSPECTIVES ON CHINA

A basic search 'China' in USDDO provides a return of well over 19,000 documents within all the USDDO releases.

Alfred L. Jenkins served in the American foreign service from 1946 – 1974 and was an expert advisor on Chinese-American relations during the Lyndon B. Johnson and Nixon presidencies. There are numerous memos, notes, reports and essay type observations written by Jenkins in USDDO about China and the surrounding environs.

During the 50s as American Vice Consul in Hong Kong he reports on communist activities in Shanghai, including sightings of warships, jet planes flown by German PoW, ammunitions and even the police and army summer uniform "with buttons only half-way down the front and with the typical Russian-style collar” as China possibly prepares to invade Taiwan.

In 1966 he writes several memorandums to Walt Rostow expressing a belief that there needs to be a clear US Policy regarding mainland China. One of the memos highlights his concern that an escalation of the war in Vietnam might lead to World War III and what the US action should be to this.

In a reflection of China in 1968 Jenkins writes 'Thoughts on China' a summary of China’s position since the Opium War of 1842, placed in the context of China’s history. Mao’s policies are presented – for example the Great Leap Forward, The Cultural Revolution and the impact these have or will have on future political, military and economics policies. Jenkins provides a very interesting personal opinion on what he has witnessed in Communist China and steps the US might take that make sense 'profitably'.

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