

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS, INC.

777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, 9B, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 (212) 682-6848

8/81

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE EDUCATION RESEARCH DELEGATION FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

A delegation of ten education research specialists from the People's Republic of China (PRC) will visit the United States from September 16 to October 8, 1981. The visit is at the invitation of the National Institute of Education (NIE) and is being administered by the National Committee on United States-China Relations in cooperation with the U.S. International Communication Agency and the United States Department of Education.

While most of the program details will be arranged by the National Committee, we will rely heavily on the assistance and guidance of NIE associates, professionals in the field of education research, and members of the National Committee to develop programs in each area. We would like to express our appreciation to all who will be working to make this project a success, and hope these guidelines will be useful in preparing for the visit.

SIZE AND COMPOSITION

The traveling party of 14 will consist of 10 Chinese, an official of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Research and Improvement, a National Committee tour coordinator, and two interpreters. All four escorts speak Chinese. At least two of the Chinese speak English, one well enough to interpret. A name list is attached.

BACKGROUND INTERESTS OF THE DELEGATION

The Chinese system of education has been in a state of flux in the past five years following the Cultural Revolution turmoil. Now that the field of education research (which was eliminated during the Cultural Revolution) has been restored, the Chinese have begun to explore new options in the field.

On this trip to the United States, the delegation members have said their major interests will be in the areas of the improvement of elementary and secondary education, the development of secondary vocational schools and technical community colleges, and teacher training. Also of interest, but of secondary importance to the group, are the subjects of resource utilization (statistics, facilities, and personnel), language and literacy, and the organization of educational research institutions in the United States. The group has indicated a clear preference for the discussion of research administration and methodologies over an examination of the results of U.S. education research. The Chinese feel that the methodologies themselves may contain elements which may be relevant and applicable to China, whereas research results usually derive from education situations which are unique to the United States and relatively unrelated to China's problems.

The delegation will travel to six cities in a program designed to give them a broad overview of the state of the art of education research. You should assume that the members of the group will be well read and versed in the basics of the American system of education. They will be eager to listen to highly professional presentations and to engage in substantive discussions of the issues following each presentation and tour of facilities.

PROGRAMMING AND SCHEDULING

While we wish to arrange as full and substantive a program as possible, the schedule should allow opportunities for rest including, where feasible, a post-lunch rest of about an hour and a half.

As a general rule, details of the schedule should not be made public without prior consultation with the tour coordinator. Consideration for the privacy of our Chinese guests and the possibility of last-minute schedule changes suggest that only those directly involved with the activity be informed in advance. Press policy is discussed elsewhere in this memorandum.

A number of local groups may wish to become involved in planning, welcoming the delegation upon arrival, or arranging functions. We are eager to include all groups legitimately interested in the visit. However, to prevent any potentially embarrassing incidents, we ask that you contact the National Committee regarding such requests before commitments or arrangements are made.

Since only two members of the delegation understand English, please allow time for translation (about double). If a presentation is to be given from a written text, or if there are any materials which describe what the Chinese will see, please arrange to have them delivered to the tour coordinator's hotel room prior to the group's arrival. If this is not possible, please make certain that an extra copy of any written material is available for the interpreter at the time of the presentation.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITIES AND PROTOCOL

Common sense and courtesy are key ingredients in dealing with any foreign group and the Chinese are no exception. Members of recent Chinese delegations have been quite relaxed and at ease. Consideration of Chinese sensitivities should, however, dictate all interactions with them, as well as all details of the arrangements--guest lists, seating, the nature of receptions, and so on.

Chinese are sensitive about the correct reference to their country. Please remind everyone who will be in contact with them, especially those who will be making speeches or toasts, that the correct name is the People's Republic of China or simply China. Any welcome sign or material presented in Chinese should be checked with one of the accompanying Americans. Please make sure that no Taiwan flag is displayed in any building which the delegation must enter. The Taiwan flag has a solid red field with a white sunburst on a blue background in one corner; the flag of the People's Republic of China is solid red with four small yellow stars arced around a fifth larger star in one corner.

According to Chinese usage, the family name precedes the given name. Thus, the delegation leader, Shi Ping, would be addressed as "Mr. Shi" (pronounced "Sure").

The Chinese do not mind being asked personal questions about their families or work; they are also open to discussing politics and current developments in China; although these subjects should obviously be handled tactfully.

Chinese expect to shake hands with foreigners. Other forms of touching--hand-holding, a slap on the back, etc.--are common between members of the same sex, but generally avoided between men and women.

It is customary in China for important visitors to be met at entrances upon arrival and escorted to the door or vehicle at departure. It would be appreciated if American hosts would do the same.

FOOD AND MENUS

Although the Chinese expect to attend receptions, they are not accustomed to extended stand-up cocktail parties, and seem to prefer informal social activities. Whenever convenient, meals should be served buffet or family style, which allows for a more varied selection, saves time, and allows each member to select the amount and type of food preferred. As a rule, the leader of a delegation should be seated to the host's immediate right, with an interpreter adjacent. The enclosed name list is in protocol order and any questions can be checked with the tour coordinator.

This group may include some members familiar with foreign food and others unacquainted, but curious. As a general rule, however, most Chinese do not eat lamb. They like gravy with meat, but usually do not like cream sauces. Although all will be able to use knives and forks and can tackle a steak, they are accustomed to and prefer meat served in small pieces, as in stews. Fowl and seafood are popular.

To Chinese taste, Americans overcook vegetables--the Chinese prefer them almost undercooked so that they are crispy. Again, no cream sauces. Heavy use of butter or margarine should also be avoided. Noodles or rice, especially with gravy but without butter are welcome accompaniments, and the Chinese will consume at least twice as much of these two grains as the average American. All kinds of soups (other than cream soups), especially noodle, rice, and vegetable are very popular. While most Chinese have an aversion to cheese, many of them do like yogurt, a few drink milk (especially hot milk or cocoa at breakfast), and almost all love ice cream. Another special favorite is fruit--fresh or in compotes. Tea (green or black), coffee, soft drinks, and fruit juices are favorite beverages. During cocktail parties, soft drinks, fruit juices, beer, or white wine are generally preferred.

Those planning receptions or meals may wish to consult our office. We would like to spare our guests the experience of Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, who was served veal at five successive dinners on his American visit.

HOTELS

The National Committee will make hotel arrangements, but for your general information, the following guidelines apply.

For both security and convenience, all rooms should be on the same floor and preferably in the same wing. The entire party should be pre-registered

and all charges, with back-up information, put on a master account billed to the National Committee.

Hotel employees should not ask for nor expect tips from the group. The Chinese do not have this custom, and gratuities should be added to the bill.

SECURITY

Wherever appropriate, local hosts should ask for the cooperation of security personnel at institutions to be visited. If entertainment in a theater or auditorium is scheduled, the delegation should be seated together.

PRESS

We will attempt to facilitate press access to the delegation upon request. In the past, the Chinese have been reluctant to grant press conferences, but individual interviews and media coverage of some events have been arranged. Media requests should be referred to the tour coordinator who will present them to the Chinese. Only duly accredited press should be permitted to cover the visit and reporters (or other media personnel) should have appropriate identification.

GIFTS

A November 1980 State Council directive prohibits Chinese individuals from accepting personal gifts of significant monetary value. If a local institution would like to present a commemorative gift of the visit to the delegation, professional materials would be particularly appropriate. Written material with political content would not be appropriate. Any gift should be reviewed with the tour coordinator before presentation so that the Chinese will not be embarrassed or unable to reciprocate.

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EDUCATION RESEARCH DELEGATION FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

*To the long life
of the delegation
leaders and
members of
the delegation*

LEADER

Shi Ping *Mr. Sun* Chairman, University Council, Hua Dong (East China)
Normal University (Shanghai)

DEPUTY LEADER

Shao
Xiao Yan (f) Deputy Director, Higher Education Department, Ministry
of Education (MOE) (Beijing)

MEMBERS

Lu Zhun President, Kunming Normal College (Kunming)
Chang
Zhang Lianfeng Director, People's Education Publishing House (Beijing)
Li Yiben Deputy Director, Teacher Education Department, MOE
Guo Zhenggang Deputy Director, Personnel Bureau, MOE
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Su Zhixin (f) Interpreter

ESCORTS

Mae Chu Chang Associate, Office of Educational Research and Improvement,
Department of Education
Jay Henderson Program Associate, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations;
Tour Coordinator
Robin Ting Interpreter (September 17-29)
Betty Ting Interpreter (September 29-October 8)
June Mei Interpreter (September 29-October 8)