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280 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 U.S.A.

THE U.S. AND CHINA: TALKING POINTS

William H. Overholt
Vice President
Head, Political Assessment Group

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- I. The Sino-American Relationship is Multidimensional, including:
 - A. Political tone, and the Sino-Soviet-American triangle
 - B. Taiwan
 - C. Attitudes on specific issues, notably Afghanistan, Cambodia
 - D. Trade
 - E. Military
 - F. Cultural

- II. The U.S. Political Attitude to China within the Great Power Triangle has evolved rapidly:
 - A. Pre-1972: Non-recognition
 - B. 1972-1978: Equidistance with U.S.S.R.
 - C. 1978-1980: Entente
 - D. 1981-1983: Cooler relations, but U.S. still tilted toward China

- III. Taiwan and the Cooling of Entente
 - A. Entente based on 1978 papering over of disagreement about arms sales to Taiwan
 - B. Arms sale issue is a proxy for deeper disagreement
 - China expected rapid progress toward a different relationship with Taiwan
 - U.S. expected continuation of status quo in all but name
 - C. The crisis of 1980-81: both sides hedge the normalization agreement
 - Reagan campaign seemed to back away from de-recognition of Taiwan
 - China seemed to back away from private assurance to abstain from any military threats to Taiwan
 - D. 1982-83 brought return to 1978 agreement
 - With Reagan endorsement of predecessors' policies, U.S. has national consensus accepting the normalization agreement
 - U.S. has equally strong consensus on right of Taiwan to a peaceful settlement
 - China is unwilling to cripple economic programs over Taiwan issue
 - Sino-Soviet talks do not fundamentally threaten U.S. interests

IV. Specific Issues

- A. Strong collaboration over: Afghanistan, Cambodia, deterrence of U.S.S.R.
- B. Strong disagreement over: U.S. policies toward third world, southern Africa

V. Economic

- A. Strong U.S. commitment to facilitate China's development
- B. Chinese determination to join the Western economic system it previously denounced
- C. Trade disputes are temporary

VI. Military

- A. Strong intelligence cooperation
- B. Sales of technology
 - largely dual use
 - U.S. very restrictive on military hardware

VII. Overall Perspective

- A. Euphoria has ended - politically, economically, culturally, militarily
- B. Conflict is very low, and important areas of cooperation are being institutionalized