

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8455

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 DIMPTD  
TAGS: PINT TXIO CH  
SUBJ: TENG HSIAO-PING'S CONVERSATION WITH DR. NIU MAN-CHIANG

1. SUMMARY. DR. NIU MAN-CHIANG HAS PASSED ON TO  
USLO SOME POINTS FROM HIS AUGUST 16 TALK WITH TENG  
TSIAO-PING. TENG TOLD NIU THAT HE WAS IN CHARGE OF  
TWO THINGS: SCIENCE AND THE MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. NIU MAN-CHIANG TOLD USLO OFFICER AUGUST 16  
OF HIS TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION EARLIER THAT DAY WITH  
TENG HSIAO-PING. NIU SAID THAT TENG WAS IN  
EXCELLENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION.  
FANG YI, DE FACTO HEAD OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCE, AND MRS. NIU ALSO ATTENDED THE CONVERSATION.

3. NIU SAID THAT TENG STARTED OUT BY TELLING HIM  
"I AM IN CHARGE OF TWO THINGS: SCIENCE AND THE MILITARY."  
IN SPITE OF THIS, TENG KEPT RETURNING TO ECONOMIC  
MATTERS, SPECIFICALLY TO CHINA'S PROBLEM IN  
FEEDING ITS GROWING POPULATION. NIU SAID HE  
HAD TWO ARGUMENTS WITH TENG ON THE SOLUTION TO  
THE FOOD-POPULATION PROBLEM. TENG SAID THAT  
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CHINA NEEDED AN ABSOLUTE REDUCTION IN POPULATION,  
AND THAT RESTRICTING BIRTHS TO ONE PER FAMILY  
WAS THE BEST WAY TO DO IT. NIU THOUGHT THAT  
THIS SOLUTION WAS TOO DRASTIC AND THAT  
RESTRICTING BIRTHS TO TWO PER FAMILY WOULD HAVE  
THE DESIRED EFFECT.

4. TENG SAID THAT A PRINCIPAL USE OF SCIENCE IN CHINA SHOULD BE TO ENABLE CHINA TO GROW MORE FOOD. NIU SAID THAT HE TOLD TENG THAT WHAT CHINA REALLY NEEDED WAS TO GROWN BETTER QUALITY FOOD, FOR EXAMPLE, TO INCREASE THE PROTEIN CONTENT OF RICE OR CORN TO GIVE CHINESE A BETTER DIET. HE EXPLAINED THE TECHNIQUES HE HAS BEEN USING TO CHANGE GOLDFISH GENETICS SHOULD BE APPLICABLE TO USE IN PLANTS THROUGH POLLEN CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES WHICH ARE ALREADY BEING DEVELOPED IN CHINA. NIU SAID THAT TENG IMMEDIATELY GRASPED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IDEA AND CONSIDERED GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF PLANT STRAINS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. HE THEN JOKINGLY ASKED, "DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DEVELOP SOMETHING THAT WOULD LET ME WORK FOR TWENTY MORE YEARS?" NIU SAID THAT ALL HE COULD OFFER NOW WAS ADVICE FOR TENG NOT TO SMOKE SO MUCH.

5. TENG ASKED WHAT NIU NEEDED FOR HIS RESEARCH AND OFFERED TO SUPPLY WHATEVER IT WAS. NIU SAID THAT FANG YI WAS VERY PLEASED TO GET SUCH SUPPORT FROM THE TOP. TENG THANKED NIU FOR COMING TO CHINA TO WORK, SAYING THAT HE MUST BE LEAVING BEHIND MANY COMFORTS IN THE U.S.

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AND SCIENTIFIC WORK WAS MUCH EASIER THERE. TENG ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING LACKING IN HIS RESEARCH. NIU SAID THAT HE REPLIED THAT WHAT HE NEEDS MOST IS A GOOD SUPPLY OF COLLEGE GRADUATES COMING INTO RESEARCH WORK, WHICH WAS THE TRUE SUPERIORITY OF THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC SYSTEM, I.E., THAT ANY STUDENT WHO REALLY WANTED TO COULD GET A COLLEGE EDUCATION. HE HOPED THAT CHINA COULD DO THE SAME THING. NIU ADDED (WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE INFORMATION CAME FROM TENG) THAT EVEN IF THIRTY PERCENT OF THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WENT TO COLLEGE, THIS WOULD STILL BE A PITIFULLY SMALL NUMBER. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT CHINESE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES COULD ABSORB NO MORE THAN FIVE OR SIX PERCENT OF EVEN THIS SMALL NUMBER. TENG CLOSED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS SORRY HE WAS UNABLE TO SEEDR. NIU IN 1976, BUT HOPED TO SEE MORE OF HIM IN THE FUTURE.

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