

RECORD OF THE MAIN CONTENT OF A.A. GROMYKO'S CONVERSATION WITH US
PRESIDENT J. CARTER

September 23, 1977, Washington

[excerpts dealing with China]

[...]

J. CARTER. [...]

A few words about relations between the USA and China. We are striving to normalize our relations with China not for the purpose of creating a kind of alliance with it against the Soviet Union but for strengthening peace, developing trade and other relations with that country. We hope that the problem of mutual relations between PRC and Taiwan will be resolved by peaceful means. But we do not want to abrogate our obligation to guarantee the peaceful life of Taiwan.

[...]

A.A. GROMYKO. [...]

Now about China. From the point of view of the international situation and also of the broad interests of the USA and, of course, the Soviet Union, we believe it is correct to emphasize that it would have been a great mistake if a dirty game had been played here, the open or secret collusion against the Soviet Union, against its interests. Because sooner or later it would have become known and the appropriate consequences would follow, including those in the area of US-Soviet relations. We would like to hope that the USA does not intend to play the Chinese card against the Soviet Union. In the past under other American administrations we have been assured many times that the USA does not have such intentions. We will see what the reality turns out to be.

Presently relations between China and the USA are normal and, possibly, even friendly whereas our relations with China are tense. We do not object to the existence of normal relations between China and the USA. But be on guard so that they do not pull you into games dirty and dangerous for our both countries. We too once had good relations with China. If the Chinese would be able to embroil the USA with the Soviet Union they would gladly use it for their own advantage. Would this be good for the USA? We do not have a crystal ball so that we could see the future, however, the history teaches historians a lot. It has taught us, in any case, and the USA, too, should have already learned.

[...]

J. CARTER. [...]

About China. We will never allow that our relations with China would become an obstacle for the development of US relations with the Soviet Union. We did not have and we will not have any secrets or open collusion with China directed against the Soviet Union. I would rather stop my efforts to change for the better our relations with China than to allow something like that to happen.

[...]

Source: Russian Foreign Ministry Archives, Moscow. Translated by Mark Doctoroff.