

*NY Times, May 10, 1982, p. 3*

# Bush Leaves China With New Ideas For Resolving Taiwan Arms Dispute

By CHRISTOPHER S. WREN

Special to The New York Times

PEKING, May 9 — Vice President Bush left China today with what he called "some specific ideas" for President Reagan on resolving the impasse that has developed over the issue of United States arms sales to Taiwan.

Mr. Bush said that he was going home with a "much clearer perception" of the Chinese position on Taiwan, which dominated two days of what were described as frank exchanges that Mr. Bush had with deputy party chairman Deng Xiaoping, Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, Foreign Minister Huang Hua and Deputy Prime Minister Wan Li.

But the Vice President refused to say what these ideas entailed or whether any had been proposed by the Chinese.

In formal meetings and more casual conversations, the Chinese leaders pressed Mr. Bush on the arms sale issue, emphasizing that it had created "serious obstacles" to the normal development of Chinese-American relations, which are now at their lowest point since formal diplomatic ties were established on Jan. 1, 1979.

### Three Letters Released

"I will take back certain ideas that I gleaned from the Chinese leadership and discuss those with the President," Mr. Bush said at an airport news conference before his departure.

He remarked later that "I may have some specific ideas to suggest to him, and maybe the Chinese side will be talking about specific things that we discussed."

Despite his evident failure to budge the Chinese on their opposition to the arms sales to Taiwan, Mr. Bush told reporters that "frankly, I feel good about the discussions I have had during the past days."

"I feel," he went on, "that some progress has been made and I believe that the recent personal correspondence by the President to the Chinese leaders has done much to help advance the process."

Three letters, which were made public by Mr. Bush's staff today, included one to Mr. Deng from the President giving Mr. Reagan's strongest endorsement yet of the plan for peaceful reunification that Peking proposed to Taiwan amid great fanfare last September.

The proposal, which was announced by Ye Jianying, chairman of China's

nominal Parliament, promised that Taiwan could keep its economic and social system and even its armed forces and that its Nationalist leaders could participate in running the mainland Communist regime. This and the offer of talks leading to reunification were promptly rejected by the Taiwan authorities as a trick.

### Peaceful Reunification

In his letter of April 5, which suggested that Mr. Bush visit China, Mr. Reagan said:

"We fully recognize the significance of the nine-point proposal of Sept. 30, 1981 and the policy set forth by your Government as early as Jan. 1, 1979."

This latter reference alluded to Peking's assurances after full Chinese-American relations were established that it sought peaceful reunification with Taiwan rather than military liberation.

The acknowledgment of Peking's peace overture, while falling short of full approval, indicated the extent to which the Reagan Administration is concerned that Chinese-American relations not deteriorate further.

It also seemed to undercut the Administration's rationale for planning to sell \$60 million worth of military spare parts to Taiwan over China's objections. Peking has maintained that its formal bid for peaceful reunification has eliminated any need for transfers of American arms to Taiwan.

### Letter to Prime Minister

Two other letters from Mr. Reagan made public today included a letter to Prime Minister Zhao, also on April 5, proposing Mr. Bush's visit and recalling that the President had told Foreign Minister Huang in Washington last November that "we welcome your peace proposal."

The third letter, dated May 3 and hand-carried by Mr. Bush for Hu Yaobang, the party chairman, reiterated Mr. Reagan's commitment to a one-China policy, a point that Mr. Bush stressed throughout his visit here.

Mr. Reagan's letter to Prime Minister Zhao also said that he had told Mr. Huang: "We would expect that in the context of progress toward a peaceful solution, there would naturally be a decrease in the need for arms by Taiwan. Our positions over the past two months have reflected this view."

Consequently, the gradual elimina-

tion of United States arms transfers to Taiwan must have come up in the talks that Mr. Bush had with the Chinese leaders, though the Vice President would not discuss the substance of his meetings.

"I'm not going to elaborate on the details of any negotiation," Mr. Bush replied when a reporter asked him to be more specific about the progress that he said he had achieved here.

Instead, he noted that discussions of the military sales issue would continue here at the lower level on which they have been conducted since January, through Ambassador Arthur W. Hummel Jr. Washington has assured Peking that no further military transfers, beyond the present package of aircraft spare parts, will take place to Taiwan while the discussions continue.

"I am carrying back to the President a very clear perception of the Chinese position, a much clearer perception than before we came here," Mr. Bush told reporters. "I happen to believe that this relationship is absolutely fundamental, in terms of our foreign policy objectives, and I believe President Reagan shares that view."

### Taiwan Relations Act

In this sense, the visit was a success for the Chinese leadership, which can now argue that the Reagan Administration has no excuse for misunderstanding its feelings about Taiwan. China considers Taiwan a province of the mainland and says that the United States accepted this view in normalizing relations.

During his visit, Mr. Bush played down the American commitment to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act, which the Chinese challenge as invalid under international law. In response to a question about how the Chinese-American negotiations might affect the act, Mr. Bush said that "this President is bound to uphold the law of the land and I think everyone understands that fully."

### Bush Resting in Hawaii

KONA, Hawaii, May 9 (AP) — Vice President Bush arrived in Hawaii today for two days of rest after his six-nation tour of Asia. No public engagements were planned during his stay here. He is to leave Hawaii on Tuesday afternoon.