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(CHINA)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH SAID TODAY THE CHINESE POLITICAL SHAKEUP CAME AS A SURPRISE, BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN PEKING AND THE UNITED STATES.

BUSH, WHO WAS CHIEF OF THE U.S. LIAISON MISSION IN PEKING BEFORE TAKING OVER AS CIA DIRECTOR, TOLD REPORTERS ON CAPITOL HILL, "I WOULD ONLY SAY THAT WHEN I WAS IN CHINA I DIDN'T FORESEE THE EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CHINA. I DON'T THINK ANYONE ELSE FORESAW IT."

BUSH ADDED THAT "U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS WILL NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED."

BUSH WAS QUERIED ABOUT REPORTS THAT HUA KUO FENG HAS BECOME THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THAT TENG HSIAO PING WAS DUSTED FROM ALL POLITICAL POSITIONS.

BUSH SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHINA, BUT HE SAID, "THESE MATTERS ARE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CHINA. THEY WILL SORT IT OUT. THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A CERTAIN TURMOIL AND CHURNING IN CHINA. IT IS SOMETHING I SHOULD STAY OUT OF," BUSH SAID.

BUSH SAID THE APPOINTMENT OF FENG SHOULD STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

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Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the CIA Operations Center and of the appropriate analytic component in the Agency.