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UPI-81

(CHINA)

HONG KONG (UPI) -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER HUGH SCOTT SAID TODAY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA MAY NOT BE UPGRADED UNTIL AFTER THE DEATH OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER MAO TSE-TUNG AND NATIONALIST CHINESE PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

IN A SPEECH TO THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT'S CLUB, SCOTT SAID FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO "WAIT UNTIL ANOTHER GENERATION TAKES OVER."

ASKED IF THAT MEANT WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE DEATHS OF MAO OR CHIANG OR BOTH, SCOTT REPLIED, "I SUPPOSE I WAS AT LEAST HINTING THAT. I DON'T THINK IT'S (FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS) POSSIBLE WITH THIS GENERATION.

"WE HAVE SEEN COUNTRIES WHERE THE ADVENT OF A NEW GENERATION WAS THE ADVENT OF A NEW APPROACH," SCOTT SAID, CITING THE BREAKTHROUGH IN US-CHINA RELATIONS WHICH OCCURRED WHEN FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON, A REPUBLICAN, REPLACED DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON.

MAO IS 88 AND CHIANG, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONALIST CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON TAIWAN, IS 87. THE UNITED STATES HAS A MISSION IN PEKING BUT DOES NOT HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

PEKING AND TAIPEI BOTH AGREE TAIWAN BELONGS TO CHINA BUT BOTH ALSO CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE ONLY LEGAL CHINESE GOVERNMENTS.

SCOTT SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE RELATIONS BETWEEN PEKING AND WASHINGTON HAVE ACTUALLY SLIPPED SINCE NIXON'S BREAKTHROUGH VISIT IN 1972.

"MY OWN VIEW IS THAT WE ARE STILL ON PROBATION WITH THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA," SCOTT SAID. "THE USSR STILL IS PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1 (TO THE CHINESE). I THINK THEY (CHINA) HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR AWHILE."

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