

amount of caution in the administration. The night before the official state visit began, Premier Zhu, residing at the Blair House across the street from the White House, was invited to a late-night session with the President at his residence. President Clinton has traditionally met informally with visiting leaders prior to the arrival ceremonies on the South Lawn of the White House. Although the White House hasn't said much about that discussion, which lasted two and a half hours, Zhu was made to understand that the administration, wary of winning Congressional acceptance for the larger trade package, was not prepared to back China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) at this time.

Although China would have to make significant economic sacrifices to join the WTO, Premier Zhu, feeling that this would accelerate much needed foreign investment, is committed to China joining the WTO as quickly as possible. In addition, it is important to China that it enter the WTO before Taiwan, which is also intent on membership in the trade organization. WTO membership would bring with it permanent most-favored-nation trade status, avoiding thereby the annual debates in the U.S. Congress over human rights that accompany that decision. In the last few weeks of negotiations with the U.S. trade representative, China has indeed gone a long way in opening up its markets, including allowing the import of significant amounts of agricultural products which China itself produces, including citrus products from California and wheat from the Pacific Northwest. Although China will not benefit from these concessions, it is felt that the political "goodwill" thereby attained will have beneficial results in the long run—from increased trade with the United States.

'Good dispositions'

At the official arrival on April 8, President Clinton harkened back to the Revolutionary War period, when the relations with China were first established. "Your visit is an important event in the long relations between our people, a relationship that spans nearly the entire history of the United States," Clinton said. "Before this city even existed, even before our Constitution was signed, China granted our newly independent nation equal standing with the powers of Europe. At the dawn of a new century, we now recognize that our interests coincide on many issues and diverge on some others, but that we have a fundamental responsibility to speak with candor and listen with an open mind. And certainly we can agree that China and the United States can best achieve our hopes in the next century if we continue to build a constructive strategic partnership, a relationship that allows us to make progress on the issues that matter to our people." Premier Zhu responded: "The United States is the strongest and the most prosperous country in the world, while China is the largest potential market in the world. . . . So the close cooperation between these two countries will bring splendid hopes to the people in the world for closer

cooperation in economic, trade, culture, scientific fields, and also for bringing about more prosperity and the solidarity of the world people."

Clinton returned to his theme at the state dinner at the White House. "Since 1784, Chinese and Americans have shared a lively dialogue over how to achieve common cause in the countless pursuits that animate great nations," he said. "Thomas Jefferson took care to promote what he called 'good dispositions' between the United States and China. Abraham Lincoln, in his first annual message to Congress, predicted our extensive trade with China. And, of course, Franklin Roosevelt made it America's purpose to join with China in defense of freedom."

But the Premier himself took center-stage to present his case to the American people—and he did so superbly. With dead-pan humor and his razor-sharp wit, he seemed to win the hearts of all to whom he talked, including the President himself, who elicited some mirth from both the Chinese and

'Technology is the common heritage of mankind'

During a press conference with President Clinton in Washington on April 8, Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji was asked to respond to allegations that China stole nuclear weapons secrets from U.S. laboratories. Zhu replied that neither he nor Chinese President Jiang Zemin knew of any espionage. "As a senior engineer, I've been in charge of the industry in China for more than 40 years, and I have never known any of our most advanced technology came from the United States," Zhu said.

The Prime Minister's broader point was that "technology development, or technologies, are the common heritage, or common property of mankind, and in scientific inventions, actually all roads lead to Rome." He named some of the scientists who have led Chinese space and nuclear programs, stating that although they had studied abroad, what they brought back to China with them was not secret pieces of paper, but their brains.

For the past 40 years, nuclear scientist Edward Teller, who worked in the Manhattan Project during World War II and later designed the hydrogen bomb, has led a campaign to end the U.S. government policy of needlessly classifying millions of pages of scientific work. He has stressed that such classification hampers collaboration among scientists, does not provide security, and keeps information developed by the nation's weapons laboratories from industry and the American public.

American press, when it was noticed during their joint press conference, that he was nonchalantly chatting with the Premier during the translation of a question, obviously noting how it was getting late, and how they should probably conclude the press conference in order to make it on time to the state dinner.

Although Zhu was obviously disappointed at the failure to achieve all he hoped to achieve with regard to China's entry into the WTO, he was effectively taking his case to Congress and to the American people. On his second day in Washington, he met with a bipartisan group of 12 Congressmen to discuss the U.S.-China agricultural agreement which was to be signed at the end of the week. Speaking to supporters at a dinner at the Willard Hotel sponsored by a number of U.S.-China organizations, Zhu said, "My impression was that all of them approved of the agricultural agreement. As for the other outstanding problems that I described, they seemed to know nothing very much about them. So as I see it, if we were

to make public the agreement that we had reached with the American side, Congress would support it." Zhu was so successful in his "lobbying" among business and political layers, that he received an unexpected call from President Clinton while he was in New York, who assured him that the United States would support Chinese WTO membership before the end of the year. The White House had been bombarded by angry calls and e-mails from business leaders and congressmen furious at administration delay on the issue.

After the Washington leg of his trip, Premier Zhu then went to Chicago. There, he visited the Mercantile Exchange, and also visited a farm, underlining the benefit to American farmers of an agreement which had been signed that same day by the Chinese Trade Minister in Washington.

On his second day in Washington, which Zhu referred to as a "terrible day," he met with Vice President Al Gore to discuss cooperation on environmental issues. Here he encountered the other side of the "China bashers." Gore made a

In his 1987 book *Better a Shield Than a Sword*, Dr. Teller recounts that the roots of classification lay in the fear during World War II that the Germans would advance their work on a nuclear bomb if American scientists published their research on nuclear fission. Soon after the publication of the work of German scientists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassman in 1939, that they had discovered the process of nuclear fission, the U.S. government introduced comprehensive secrecy practices.

There have been heroic efforts to replace secrecy in science with collaboration, Teller reports. The most prominent was the 1954 Atoms for Peace conference. President Eisenhower decided that whether the Soviets participated or not, the United States would share its information on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

"We gave away a lot of information at the First Atoms for Peace Conference," Teller says, "and we accomplished a lot. Soviet scientists were delighted to present their achievements. . . . With secrecy on reactor designs lifted, schools of nuclear engineering were established. Industries hired the graduate engineers, and a dozen years later nuclear reactors competed with coal, oil, and gas in generating electricity.

"Under present rules, research done in our national laboratories cannot be fully shared with civilian industries. When we fail to expose people to problems they could help solve, we remain unaware of the loss. We now have millions of classified documents. We also have falling productivity. Rapid progress cannot be reconciled with central control and secrecy. The limitations we impose on ourselves by restricting information are far greater than any advantage others could gain by copying our ideas."

Many years ago, Teller wrote an atomic alphabet dictionary for his young son, which sums up his view:

"S stands for secret; you can keep it forever.
Provided there's no one abroad who is clever."

Secrecy is not compatible with science

"Today, secrecy has become a terrible destructive force in our society," Teller writes. "My postwar efforts to reverse the process have not affected its devastating spread. I am unhappy that I had anything to do with its beginnings."

In 1993, Teller saw some fruit of his multi-decade campaign. He helped convince then-Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary to declassify documents on laser fusion. The secrecy was hampering international cooperation, and placed American researchers at a disadvantage, he argued. Because other nations do not classify laser fusion research, the only victims of the U.S. policy were American scientists.

The accusations that Chinese-American scientists have passed on nuclear weapons secrets to China, has created an atmosphere in the nation's scientific laboratories resembling a police state. Computers containing classified data have been shut down for weeks, while employees attend "security" briefings, and new employees will go through lie detector tests. Scientists at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Labs have stated that this is not an atmosphere conducive to creative scientific work.

Edward Teller, this nation's senior nuclear weapons specialist, believes that "secrecy is not compatible with science, but it is even less compatible with democratic procedure."—*Marsha Freeman*