656-10 Excerpt 2 (1:02) January 26, 1972 RN, Barend Biesheuvel, Alexander Haig, and J. William Middendorf

RN: We will discuss a lot of things. We will discuss their role in the Pacific and our role in the Pacific. We will disagree on a lot of things. But the most important thing about that visit is that it occurs, and that the Chinese and the United States will have begun a process of, shall we say, getting to know each other. Now, this is not said in any sense of sentimentality. There are many people who-who have looked at the China visit and and interpreted it exactly the wrong way. Uh, they say "oh, this is great-the- now the United States and China, really never had any differences—

BB: Uh-huh.

RN: --everything's going to be settled." It's not that. Uh, no one in this world knows how great the gulf is between their philosophy and ours, their interests and ours. Uh, but also no one in this world, I think, knows better than I do, how imperative it is to see that great nations that have enormous differences, uh, where you've got the nuclear thing hanging in the balance, have got to find ways to, you know, talk, get along.