



Jerry A. Cooke
6622 Peruzzi Way
Lake Worth, FL
33467-4618



Phone: (561) 414-3238
Fax: (561) 629-8295

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Dear Marge,

Attached you will find my Summary of the USCPFA Washington Seminar. You may find it written in an unusual style. It does not go in great detail about the various topics that were covered or places that we visited. Nor does it go into depth regarding the messages conveyed by those who addressed us. Instead it is a heartfelt, emotional recitation of my reaction to an incredible event.

The Summary is purposefully written for disclosure to the members of our chapter or to anyone else with whom you wish to share it.

On a personal note I want to express to you my appreciation for your individual attention to me and my son, Andrew. It was very comforting to know that there was someone with whom I was familiar watching and guiding me through the magical few days in Washington.

Andrew continues to express to me and others how much he enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship shown to him, a stranger, by the entire group attending the seminar. While Andrew is basically reserved when it comes to meeting, interacting, and expressing his views to strangers in an environment such as we had in Washington, the cordiality and openness shown to him made him feel totally comfortable in sharing his views with folks in attendance. In short, "he had a ball."

I too had a similar reaction. I had pledged to myself that I would "stop, look, and listen." It did not take me long to feel totally comfortable in the presence of each and every individual that I met. The result of this comfort was that I felt free to express myself, ask questions, as well as listen intently. A good mix. As a result, I drew closer to these "strangers" and they became "friends." I left on Friday feeling that I had made new friends and was eager to be with them again in Atlanta. My hope is that my present frantic schedule will allow me to initiate and maintain contact with these, my new friends.

Although I covered it in my attached Summary statement I would be remiss if I did not express to you here how grateful I am to you for the opportunity to learn so much about the US-China Peoples Friendship Association, its history, accomplishments, and goals. I was particularly delighted to learn and observe that the organization to which I am a member is held in such high regard and esteem by officials of both the Chinese and US governments. I do hope that my extremely active daily schedule involving research, writing, and lecturing becomes sufficiently reduced to allow me some time in the future to devote to USCPFA activities. However, at this immediate juncture "there is no more room in the inn."

With warm regards and appreciation,

s/g

Jerry

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
US-CHINA PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
TWENTY-FIRST WASHINGTON SEMINAR
ON
US-CHINA RELATIONS
HELD AT
THE KELLOGG CONFERENCE HOTEL
GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
APRIL 24 & 25, 2014

It is my pleasure to report to you a summary of the events that took place at the USCPFA Washington Seminar on April 24th & 25th of 2014. At the outset, however, it should be made clear that this writer had never previously attended a function of the USCPFA national organization nor previously written a summary report regarding such a gathering. Thus, the words that you will see here are those of a "newbie," one who does not feel constrained to provide a report in the traditional manner.

The traditional report would probably contain a list of the subjects covered by the speakers at the various meetings, a brief statement of the message delivered by each of the speakers, as well as the places visited by the participants during the two-day program. I choose not to do that. Instead, I have attached at the end of this note a copy of the two-page published program for your perusal. In a few instances, however, I will attempt to draw your attention to certain messages.

What I would like to do here is to attempt to provide my observations and feelings and reactions to the various events that took place. I know that these are subjective and may not reflect the views of each and every attendee. These are my own personal views. I would like to share them with you and hope that you will bear with me as I do so.

PART I.
Friendships Formed With Chapter Members
Scattered Throughout the United States

On Wednesday, April 24, 2014, I arrived at the Kellogg Conference Hotel located on the Gallaudet University Campus, Washington, DC, the venue for the Twenty-First Washington Seminar. The Center was small and comfortable. This helped create what I felt was a warm and relaxed atmosphere, something to my liking. Inasmuch as this was my first experience with the national USCPFA folks I was a bit apprehensive. I knew almost no one and additionally knew too little about the organization of which I was a member. Whatever discomfort I was feeling was quickly dispelled when I approached the registration desk and was warmly greeted by members from Bloomington, Minnesota, and Sarasota, Florida. We had a brief chat and I soon recognized I was among friends.

The Metro-DC Chapter sponsored a cocktail party that night for the seminar attendees. At that gathering I had the occasion to meet chapter members from various parts of the country. I learned that about 80 individuals were to attend the seminar. A large percentage of that number attended the party. Three things took place that night which were of significance to me. First, in the course of my attempt at meeting folks I engaged a fellow from Portland, Oregon. In the course of my chat with him I noticed a lapel pin on his jacket bearing the crossed flags of China and the U.S. and told him that I admired the pin. He reached into his pocket and took out a duplicate lapel pin and presented to me as a gift. I knew then that this was going to be a wonderful few days.

Next, Marge, Christine, and Christine's parents arrived at the soiree'. It was so good to see them. I hope my embrace of them was not too forceful. Old friends were now in the mix. I was feeling more comfortable by the minute.

Finally, as I engaged the seminar attendees I sensed an undertone of concern in the discussion. Their concerns were directed toward the need to recruit new members and the need to keep old members. In addition, I got the sense that they felt that the USCPFA had become accustomed to the status quo and needed to become more proactive in US-China affairs. (More about that later.) The evening ended with some speeches and a feeling of good cheer.

PART II.

A. The Seminar Begins

B. Visit to the United States Institute of Peace

C. Visit to the Department of State

D. Visit to the Chinese Embassy

Part II A. The Seminar Begins

As I entered the auditorium where the lectures were to take place I noticed a large table across the rear of the auditorium filled with books, pamphlets, posters, drawings, and paintings pertaining to China. When I was told that they had been donated to the organization by those members who no longer had a need for them and wanted others of like interests to have them "for free" I thought I had died and gone to heaven. I am a book addict. The only thing that kept me from sweeping up numerous "samples" was the realization that I had to carry them home. I controlled myself and limited my selection to merely a few pieces that I could not resist.

The speakers who addressed us for part of the day on Thursday and all day Friday were without exception well prepared and informative. Because we were celebrating the 40th year since our founding in 1974 many of the speakers made mention of this historic event.

As a new attendee at a national seminar I found the discussion of USCPFA history (and pre-history) totally mesmerizing. Photographic images of President Richard Nixon, Mao Tse-Tung, and Chou En-lai were sprinkled through some of the presentations. This made me acutely aware of the important role that the forbearers of the USCPFA organization had in creating and developing positive relations between China and the United States. I got a good case of "education" and loved it.

The Seminar Committee also made sure that the seminar topics were varied. For example, an attorney with the US Patent and Trademark Office spoke about intellectual property rights and China. The speaker made two points worthy of special mention here. First, because Chinese citizens and corporate entities are obtaining patent protection for their innovations, China is more inclined to provide patent protection and enforcement of patent rights to others. Second, because China has become such a significant and powerful player in world trade and commerce, China will attempt to drive future international intellectual property policy. When institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO) were established China had no voice in the policies embodied in those institutions. China seeks to correct that situation.

Another speaker addressed China's involvement in Africa. It was pointed out that there are 1,000,000 Chinese now in Africa and that in contrast to Western colonial powers the Chinese have no interest in staying in Africa. Another point that was made was that loans by China to Africa are not coupled with human rights provisions as is done by Western nations and institutions controlled by the West.

As a change of pace a panel of two speakers discussed the new trends in Chinese culture, concentrating on art, film, and education. Certain trends in the Chinese movie industry were elaborated upon. Censorship was given special attention. One of the panel members advised the attendees that she had prepared an 36-page anthology of Chinese films, including titles and brief descriptions, which would be made available to USCPFA members.

The final speaker on the last day of the seminar was one who had a profound impact on me. He was from John's Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, and addressed the political side of the US-China relationship. He stressed that the United States and China need to stop bickering and should focus on what the two governments can do together. Less focus on our differences and more attention should be paid to problems in which we have a joint interest. One subject that he mentioned that the two countries should concentrate on is climate change.

The speaker pointed out that a major problem in our US-China discourse is the matter of distrust that exists between our two governments. This is a serious problem. He mentioned that the United States and Russia had developed policies to ensure that there would be no nuclear war. That policy was called Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). The speaker then brought to our attention a new policy being bandied about in the academic community. That policy is called Mutually Assured Restraint (MAR). He indicated that the United States and China, as well as the international community, would benefit significantly if both powers adopted a strategy of Mutually Assured Restraint. It would help them to move away from the current distrust both sides exhibit in their dealings with each other, cap the military buildup, reduce the risks of unintended conflagrations, allow both nations to dedicate more resources to urgent domestic needs, and increase collaborations in many matters that concern both powers. The speaker then elaborated upon this concept. He closed his remarks with the challenge: he suggested that the USCPFA become more proactive in various areas and, in particular, endorse MAR. I believe this challenge resonated with a number of participants in the seminar.

Part II B. Visit to the United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

This was a surprise. I have passed this magnificent building hundreds of times not knowing what takes place inside of it. I received an excellent education in a very short period of time as a result of our visit.

The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan national institution established and funded by Congress. It has many goals one of which is to help prevent and resolve violent international conflicts. Because of its balance, fairness, independence, and history of effective work it has validity in the international community. The part that fascinated me was that skilled professionals within the USIP serve as an interlocutor with two factions that would otherwise not be able to be seen working together to resolve a conflict between the two parties. USIP would work with both parties in an attempt to effect resolution of a potential or existing conflict. I deduced that they have a track record of success in this endeavor.

Our greeting at USIP was warm. The speakers that addressed us were involved in significant and pressing work but found the time to talk to us and answer all of our questions. It was clear to me from comments made by those addressing us at USIP that our organization, the USCPFA, was held in high esteem.

Part II C. Visit to the Department of State

Our visit to the State Department was another delightful event. Here again we were warmly greeted and it was clear that our organization was respected. The briefer spoke off the record and was candid in his analysis of the present-day relationship between the United States and China. He discussed with us human rights, the maritime disputes, and trade relations, among other difficult issues. He had some candid statements regarding the "sunny lands" visit in California between President Obama and President Xi Jinping. We all walked away feeling that we had learned a great deal about China and the U.S. approach in dealing with that country.

Part II D. Visit to the Chinese Embassy

This was a reception in honor of USCPFA. What a marvelous way to end our half-day of visitations. I felt very privileged to have been able to enter the Chinese Embassy, to be greeted warmly by high level Embassy personnel, and to be treated to good wine and good food. Numerous Chinese personnel were made available for conversation. The cordiality extended by the Embassy officials was palpable, starting with the Minister Counselor followed by Minister Xi Wu who spoke warmly of the importance of the work of the USCPFA. Still again I was struck by the high regard in which the organization I had embraced -- USCPFA -- was held by our hosts. It was a delightful experience felt by all. One need only look at the photographs taken at the reception to see how we all felt. Marvelous!!

Respectfully submitted,

s/g

Jerry Cooke, Member
USCPFA-Southeast Florida Chapter

Attached separately: (1) Seminar Page 1.1 Agenda for Thursday, April 24, 2014
(2) Seminar Page 2.1 Agenda for Friday, April 25, 2014

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Kellogg Conference Center
Auditorium

- 7:00-9:30 a.m. Breakfast in The Bistro
- 7:30 Book Committee meeting in The Bistro
- 8:00 Registration in the Atrium: Wen Li, National Treasurer
- 9:00 *Welcome* by Seminar Co-Chairs: Diana Greer, USCPFA National President and Christine Brooks, USCPFA-Metro DC Chapter President
- 9:30 *Keynote Address*: Zhang Heqiang, Director General, Department of American & Oceanian Affairs of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)
- 10:30 *All About Intellectual Property Rights in China*: Elaine T. L. Wu, Attorney-Advisor US Patent and Trademark Office
- 11:15 *Don't Build a Great Wall Between You and the Chinese People*; Mike Revzin, USCPFA Atlanta
- 12:00 Break to prepare for site visits: US Institute of Peace; State Department (Photo ID Required); Embassy Reception—Business attire, please
- 12:30 Board buses: Light lunch provided on the bus
- 1:00 Arrive at US Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave. NW
- 1:15 Tour/Overview of US Institute of Peace: Peter Loge, Vice President of USIP
- 1:30 Discussion with Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt, Director of Asia-Pacific Program, USIP
- 2:30 State Department securitycheck-in at 23rd Street entrance—Photo ID required
- 3:00 *China Briefing*, Greg May, Bilateral Political Unit Chief in the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, US State Department
- 4:15 Board buses to go to Chinese Embassy
- 6:00 Arrive at The Embassy of the People's Republic of China
305 International Place NW
Washington D.C.
- 6:15 Reception in Honor of USCPFA, hosted by Minister Counselor Heng Xiaojun, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Speeches by Minister Xi Wu and USCPFA National President Diana Greer
- 7:45 Board buses to go on Illumination Tour
- 8:30 Arrive at Kellogg Conference Hotel
- 8:45 Southern Region meeting, Lounge area, 2nd floor

Friday, April 25, 2014

Kellogg Conference Center
Auditorium

- 7:00-9:30 a.m. Breakfast in The Bistro
8:00 Registration in Atrium: Wen Li, National Treasurer
- 9:00 *Welcome and Opening Remarks:* Diana Greer
- 9:10 *Celebrating Forty Years of Friendship between CPAFFC and USCPFA:* Barbara Harrison, Friendship Ambassador and Past President of USCPFA
- 9:45 *US and China Discourses of 'China-in-Africa'. Fears, Interests and the Messy Realities on the Ground":* Yoon Jung Park, Adjunct Associate Professor, Georgetown University
- 10:30 *Building Bridges with the Chinese~ Penetrating the Bamboo Curtain: 1884-1979:* Judy Manton, USCPFA New Jersey Organizing Chapter
- 11:30 *From Frenzy to Friendships* USCPFA Historian Paul (Bart) Trescott, author update
- 12:15 Luncheon and USCPFA Birthday Celebration: Minister Counselor Heng Xiaojun and Li Sanghua, Special guests from The Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- 1:30 *China Friendship Has a Rich Hisfo~y:* Paul Morris, USCPFA Portland Chapter
- 2:30 *New Trends in Chinese Culture: Art, Film, Education:* Panel Discussion Qing Gao: Director of Confucius Institute at George Mason University Carolyn Bloomen USCPFA Sarasota Chapter
- 3:30 *U.S & China Economic and Financial Relations:* Pieter Bottelier, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
- 4:30 *USCPFA Atlanta Convention:* Peggy Roney, Southern Region President
- 4:45 *Closing remarks:* Diana Greer,USCPFA National President
- 7:00 Dinner/movie at Ming's Restaurant in Chinatown-reservation required
617 H. St. NW,Washington DC, Cost of dinner—\$25 per person, Dutch treat Please make your reservation on Thursday with National Treasurer Wen Li.