THE U.S. AND CHINA: TALKING POINTS

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I. The Sino-American Relationship is Multidimensional, including:
   A. Political tone, and the Sino-Soviet-American triangle
   B. Taiwan
   C. Attitudes on specific issues, notably Afghanistan, Cambodia
   D. Trade
   E. Military
   F. Cultural

II. The U.S. Political Attitude to China within the Great Power Triangle has evolved rapidly:
   A. Pre-1972: Non-recognition
   B. 1972-1978: Equidistance with U.S.S.R.
   C. 1978-1980: Entente
   D. 1981-1983: Cooler relations, but U.S. still tilted toward China

III. Taiwan and the Cooling of Entente
   A. Entente based on 1978 papering over of disagreement about arms sales to Taiwan
   B. Arms sale issue is a proxy for deeper disagreement
      -- China expected rapid progress toward a different relationship with Taiwan
      -- U.S. expected continuation of status quo in all but name
   C. The crisis of 1980-81: both sides hedge the normalization agreement
      -- Reagan campaign seemed to back away from de-recognition of Taiwan
      -- China seemed to back away from private assurance to abstain from any military threats to Taiwan
   D. 1982-83 brought return to 1978 agreement
      -- With Reagan endorsement of predecessors' policies, U.S. has national consensus accepting the normalization agreement
      -- U.S. has equally strong consensus on right of Taiwan to a peaceful settlement
      -- China is unwilling to cripple economic programs over Taiwan issue
      -- Sino-Soviet talks do not fundamentally threaten U.S. interests
IV. Specific Issues
   A. Strong collaboration over: Afghanistan, Cambodia, deterrence of U.S.S.R.
   B. Strong disagreement over: U.S. policies toward third world, southern Africa

V. Economic
   A. Strong U.S. commitment to facilitate China's development
   B. Chinese determination to join the Western economic system it previously denounced
   C. Trade disputes are temporary

VI. Military
   A. Strong intelligence cooperation
   B. Sales of technology
      -- largely dual use
      -- U.S. very restrictive on military hardware

VII. Overall Perspective
   A. Euphoria has ended - politically, economically, culturally, militarily
   B. Conflict is very low, and important areas of cooperation are being institutionalized