

1096-01-597

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When the Communist Party assumed power in mainland China in 1949, diplomatic relations between the US and China came to an end. Chinese mathematicians who had studied or taught in American institutions suddenly had difficult decisions to make: either to remain in the US as did Shiing-Shen Chern, or return to China as did Hua Luogeng. In the meantime, planned visits of American mathematicians and other activities in mainland China were terminated. However, in the 1950s and 1960s, Sino-US mathematical relations were kept alive through Taiwan, where the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek took refuge. Chinese students from Taiwan came to study in America and the Chinese-American mathematicians who went to Taiwan helped in the development of mathematics there. Subsequently, President Nixon's famous visit to China in 1972 had a dramatic impact on relations among the US, mainland China, and Taiwan. Visits and exchanges of mathematicians started soon thereafter and gradually increased throughout the 1970s. Based on various primary sources, this paper presents a preliminary account of Sino-US mathematical relations from the 1950s to the 1970s. (Received September 07, 2013)