

Hello and welcome to Presidential Archives Uncovered--the podcast that brings to you cool clips from the collections of the Presidential Libraries of the U.S. National Archives.

Today we have a telephone conversation between President and Mrs. Nixon.

In February 1972, the Nixons made an historic trip to the People's Republic of China.

One result of this trip was an exchange of gifts between the two countries.

The People's Republic of China gave the United States a pair of giant pandas, and in return, the People's Republic of China received a pair of musk oxen from the US.

In this telephone conversation, President and Mrs. Nixon discuss the arrival of the pandas at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. in April of 1972.

To learn more about Nixon's trip to China, visit the Presidential Timeline, www.presidentialtimeline.org.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

RN: Hello.

PN: Yeah, hi Dick.

RN: I just wanted to be sure you knew that, uh, we called, uh, Connie's office I, and told her that, that before, oh, and we announced that, uh, that we announced today that the pandas would go to the Washington—

PN: Yeah, I got the word.

RN: place. And I think it's fine, everybody was pleased with it and, uh—

PN: Yeah.

RN: --the weather's good here, it's not quite as cold as it probably oughta- it-it could be, but it's but they can live in this kind of weather. And so, it's a good story and we said that uh, you and I had both that-that --that, that we had decided it should come here. One thought that we'd thought is a very good one when they get here, we don't know when it is but around the first of April, if you're here it'd be awfully nice if you go out, ya know—

PN: Oh, Yeah. I'd like to—

RN: -- Well to see whether they're in the same kind of habitat basically, and ya know and uh-it's a-it'll be a-it's gonna be a hell of a story.

PN: Um-hm.

RN: When I s-swore in, uh, Malvina [sic] Whitman today, ya know, the new member of the Council of Economic Advisors, I-her two children were here and my, they were bug eyed. And I told 'em about the pandas, they all want to go out and see the pandas, and I said, "well, they'll be out on April first." So that's a big story.

PN: Yeah.