David Rockefeller

Urges U.S. Ease Its Attitude on Trade with China

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 14 [Reuters] — David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, today advised a more liberal attitude by the Nixon administration towards trade with China, saying that if the United States did not supply the Chinese with advanced goods and equipment other countries would.

His optimism over future trade with China was apparently not shared by the administration, which saw little prospect of a rapid growth in Chinese commerce with non-Communist countries in the foreseeable future, he said.

He spoke to a conference on world trade marking the city of Gothenburg's 350th anniversary.

Clash with Police

About 250 leftwing youths clashed with police at the start of the conference, brandishing banners and throwing eggs at the delegates as they entered the conference hall. Police charged with sticks and riding crops and fighting ensued.

Rockefeller said a list of products for China is circulating in the Pentagon and other government departments. It is expected to be as restrictive as the list for the Soviet Union, he said.

He added, "But if China wants to develop towards economic equality with other countries, it must have computers, civil aviation and chemical plants as well as a wide range of various technical services.

Would Turn Elsewhere

"And if the U. S. does not sell them such equipment other countries will certainly fulfill the Chinese requirements in these respects."

He was critical of some aspects of European economic policy, in particular the Common Market countries' restrictive agricultural policies.

Switching to the international monetary situation, he criticized West Germany, saying it had moved too slowly prior to revaluation of the mark in 1969 and in the recent mark crisis.

Sumio Hara, chief of the Bank of Tokyo, described the Common Market and the European Free Trade Association as examples of regional thinking and potential threats to world trade.