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Atiyeh meets China's leader


By SUE HILL

Of the Statesman-Journal

PEKING — Gov. Vic Atiyeh met with Premier Zhao Zijang for nearly an hour Saturday, getting a lecture from China's top leader on acceptable semantics for a proposed friendship pact between Oregon and Taiwan.

The meeting with Zhao, a coup for Atiyeh, was scheduled to last 30 minutes. But it lasted 55 minutes instead.

The press was allowed in only for five minutes of picture taking at the



the Governor's Far East Trip

beginning.

The Associated Press bureau chief here, who accompanied the Oregon delegation to the meeting,

said the length of the session with China's chief of state was extraordinary for a U.S. governor.

Atiyeh said Zhao brought up the subject of Taiwan without ever directly mentioning Oregon's proposed friendship agreement with China's rival.

Other delegation members who stayed for the entire meeting said the governor tried at least twice to veer the premier off the subject, but to no avail.

Atiyeh said reading between the

Turn to CHINA, Page 9A.

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Associated Press

Governor in China — Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh listens Saturday as Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang makes a point during a 50-minute meeting at Zhongnanhai government compound in Peking. Atiyeh heads

an Oregon delegation in China to discuss a sister-state relationship with Fujian Province. The governor said he and the Chinese leader discussed reunification with Taiwan. Story on Page One.