

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
RETURN BANQUET  
BEIJING - 20 MAY 1986

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PREMIER ZHAO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TONIGHT IS MY OCCASION TO SAY THANK YOU. AT THE END OF OUR STAY IN BEIJING IT IS MY GREAT HONOUR TO RETURN HOSPITALITY TO MY HOST, PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG. OUR STAY HERE, THOUGH SHORT, HAS BEEN VERY BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE. THAT IT HAS BEEN SO IS THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF PREMIER ZHAO AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE I WAS LAST IN BEIJING, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND AUSTRALIA HAS DEEPENED AND DIVERSIFIED. AS I MENTIONED IN MY SPEECH TO THE THIRD CHINA-AUSTRALIA SENIOR EXECUTIVE FORUM THIS MORNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP IS NOT SIMPLE OR EASY. I'M GLAD TO FEEL THAT OUR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP IS NOW SO FIRMLY UNDERPINNED BY THE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA AND CHINA, BY THE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR LEADERS, AND THE WARM EXPANDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES.

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PREMIER ZHAO AND I HAVE MET AND TALKED TOGETHER THREE TIMES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, TWICE HERE IN CHINA. GENERAL SECRETARY HU YAOBANG PAID A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA LAST YEAR. AND THIS MORNING, I HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE OF MEETING CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING FOR THE FIRST TIME AND HEARING AT FIRST HAND HIS CONCEPTION OF CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

OUR DIALOGUE HAS REVEALED THAT ON THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ISSUES OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WE SHARE VERY SIMILAR VIEWS. I WANT TO DEPART, MR PREMIER, FOR A MOMENT FROM THE TEXT WHICH HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO REFER TO THE ATTACKS BY SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY FORCES ON INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES ON SOUTH AFRICA'S BORDERS. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THESE INCURSIONS INTO ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA. SOUTH AFRICA'S ACTIONS ARE AN OUTRAGEOUS AFFRONT TO THE NORMS OF CIVILISED BEHAVIOUR WHICH ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO ANY DECENT SOCIETY AND THEY ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AS I AM SURE THEY ARE TO CHINA.

MR PREMIER, BEHIND THE FRIENDLY LINKS BETWEEN OUR POLITICAL LEADERS THERE ARE THE DAY TO DAY BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SINCE I HAVE BEEN HERE I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN FURTHERING TRADING AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR ENTERPRISES.

THERE ARE NOW MANY AUSTRALIANS DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA OR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINA. I WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, VERY GLAD TO WITNESS TODAY THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS FULFILLING CHINA'S INTENTION TO MAKE ITS LARGEST INVESTMENT IN AUSTRALIA THROUGH A \$US100 MILLION SHARE OF THE PORTLAND ALUMINIUM SMELTER.

ESTABLISHING FIRM RELATIONSHIPS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT IS AN AIM WE SHARE. I HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY THE CLARITY WITH WHICH PREMIER ZHAO AND OTHERS IN THE LEADERSHIP HAVE ARTICULATED THE ARGUMENT THAT RELATIONSHIPS ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INDEPENDENCE PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

I AM INTERESTED TO COMPARE AUSTRALIA AND CHINA AS WE BOTH MOVE TO ESTABLISH FULLER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. CHINA LONG SAW ITSELF AS NEEDING TO KEEP ITS DOORS CLOSED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY HOW FAR THIS TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO REFLECT CHINA'S NEW POLICY OF OPENNESS TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

AUSTRALIA IS AN ISLAND STATE SURROUNDED BY SEA. FOR THE EARLIER PART OF OUR HISTORY AUSTRALIANS WERE INCLINED TO FEAR THE WORLD AROUND US AND TO SEEK TO CLOSE OURSELVES FROM IT. IN THE LAST 40 YEARS OR SO WE HAVE COME TO INVOLVE OURSELVES MORE AND MORE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND HAVE BECOME A NEW HOME FOR PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

TODAY WE CAN CLAIM THAT THROUGH OUR GROWING PARTNERSHIP  
IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA BRING  
TOGETHER THE STRENGTHS OF CIVILISATIONS DRAWING FROM EAST  
AND WEST.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE HEALTH OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG AND TO THE HEALTH OF  
ALL DISTINGUISHED CHINESE AND AUSTRALIAN GUESTS HERE  
TONIGHT.

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