



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH STUDENTS : BEIJING
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PM
..... substitute for the hard work that has to be done on
negotiating a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Q. Prime Minister, I have a question too. Not long ago
Indonesia forced some of your journalists out of the
country. What is your Government's view towards that
problem?

PM. Where was this?

A. In Indonesia

PM We quite frankly believe that there was an act of
discrimination on the part of Indonesia. Ours were the
only journalists who were precluded from being there to
cover the visit of President Reagan and it was done as
a result of the publication in one of our newspapers, the
Sydney Morning Herald, of an article which had some things
to say about internal Indonesian affairs. Now, what we've
said is that the Indonesian authorities have to understand
that under our political system under that democratic system
the Government has no control and seeks no control over our
media and if in the media articles appear, we don't know
what is going to be written, I mean a lot of the time they
even have the temerity to be critical of me and I can't do
anything about that. But the Indonesians must understand
that that is our system and we think that their reaction is
not the proper one and we hope that they will come to
understand that in our system that sort of thing may occur.
We don't encourage it but if it does then they have to
understand that that is part of our sort of system.

Q. Excuse me Mr Prime Minister. What do you think the most
satisfying result of your talks with Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang?

PM. Well I think really the confirmation, the very warm and strong confirmation of the relationship between our two countries. We see eye to eye on a great majority of issues of international and regional significance. We are committed to trying to build a strong and growing ^{economic} relationship between us on the basis of mutual benefit and we have many things that we can do and provide to help China in its magnificent program of reform and development and similarly there are things which can be done from China which will be of assistance in our patterns of growth in Australia. So the most important thing was the reaffirmation between the two leaders of what is a very, I think, special relationship between our two countries and the commitment to see this grow ~~maximally~~ as I have said not only in the economic field but in the areas of culture, science, sport and most particularly as I said there's a particular responsibility now I think to develop the relationship in the area of education.

Q. What do you from your talks with Deng Ziaoping last night.

PM I had them this morning.

PM Well, firstly, he is a remarkable man physically. Eighty-two years of age and I can assure you his mind is in Al condition. He spoke perceptively and at length about the essential nature of the changes that are taking place in China and he put not merely in the short term of the Seventh or the Sixth Five Year Plan that's just been completed and not merely in terms of the current Seventh Five Year Plan. But he was looking to the end of the century and the middle of the next century and was seeing in that vision China coming from what he described as previously a poor country moving up to the position where as you develop in the next century you will be attaining a position of the developed countries so that the level of income and the capacity for improved standard and quality of life for all the Chinese people will be lifted very high. And it was very well, stimulating and moving in a sense to see this grand old man who had committed

his life to seeing the uplifting of his people still thinking not just of tomorrow but well into the next century of a China in which all the people of this country were going to be able to have a much higher standard and quality of life and that was very important.

PM One more question

Q Some Westerners think that China will stop our reformation. What do you think of this matter?

PM That's a good question

Q Whom do you respect most among our leadership

PM Laughing - well I'll answer the second question first but I will not choose between them. They are all outstanding in the job that they have to and I have unqualified respect for all of them. And that is not just a politician's answer, I mean that, I do mean that. Now in regard to the first question, it is a very important question and I have been saying since 1983 when I first meet Premier Zhao in April 1983 and I think he knows well that I have been saying in Australia and in every country where I have been where this question has been expressed - can the reforms last, I have said yes, they are irreversible and there are good reasons why they are irreversible. It's not just think something I say because it is the right thing to say. I think there are very, very sound reasons for saying that the changes are irreversible. And they are these. Firstly, in a sense as Chairman Deng said to me today. He said we allow the facts to be the evidence and the facts are there. They are overwhelming. If you look at what has happened in the first area of change in rural China, if you look at what's happened under the Sixth Five Year Plan of the enormous increase in production but not just the increase in production

the lifting of incomes of the people in rural China which has now been extended into the urban areas. That is the first reason when people see the results - that's important. Secondly, if you see the way in which incentives and opportunities have been given to people to develop for themselves, not merely in economic terms but in the areas of education, when people see that they are now going to have the opportunities to develop their full potential in a way that they previously couldn't have, then who amongst the educated people, amongst the professional people, amongst the technically trained people, who is going to say we want to go back to something different from that. No one is going to say it. If you look at the armed forces, the armed forces while there is this very significant reduction of a million people in the numbers, nevertheless the armed forces remain an important part of China and of its security. Now the efficiency of the armed forces depends very much upon an efficient growing strong economy and as the armed forces right through see and understand that the capacity of China, the Chinese economy, to provide them with the sort of equipment and services they need, has improved so much there is no one in the armed forces who is going to be wanting to change from that system. And so wherever you look, amongst workers, amongst professional people, amongst the whole system of education, everywhere you are going to have people who are benefitting from the changes. So there is not going to be any locus or opposition and reversion to the past.

Thank you very much Mr Hawke
PM That's the first lecture