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AUSTRALIAN/CHINESE JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The following is the text of the joint communique issued by the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, and the Chinese Premier, Mr Chou En-lai, in Peking at the conclusion of the Prime Minister's visit to the People's Republic of China.

"At the invitation of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr E.G. Whitlam, paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 31 October to 4 November 1973.

Mr Whitlam was accompanied by Mrs Whitlam, the Treasurer, Mr Frank Crean, the Minister for Northern Development and the Northern Territory, Dr Rex Patterson, Mr T. Burns, M.L.A., and a party of officials.

Mr Whitlam welcomed this opportunity to renew his acquaintance with China and Chinese leaders. While in Peking, the Prime Minister, Mrs Whitlam and his party visited a factory, a people's commune and famous historic and cultural sites and were warmly welcomed and cordially received by the Chinese Government and people.

The visit was the first official visit to China by an Australian Head of Government and marked a new and important stage in the relations between the two countries.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung met Prime Minister Whitlam and had a friendly conversation with him.

Premier Chou En-lai and Prime Minister Whitlam held talks in a cordial atmosphere on a wide range of international problems and on the question of further developing the relations between the two countries.

The Australian Treasurer and the Minister for Northern Development and the Northern Territory had separate meetings with responsible members of the Ministries of Finance, Communications,

Fuel and Chemical Industries, Foreign Trade, Agriculture and Forestry and the National Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China and exchanged views on matters of interest to both sides.

The two sides agreed that these talks and meetings were very helpful in deepening the understanding and friendship between the two countries and peoples, as well as in the continued efforts of the two countries for the improvement of the international situation.

Both sides affirmed that countries, big or small, should be equal. Every nation has the right to safeguard its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity against foreign aggression, interference, control and subversion.

The two sides affirmed that China and Australia, being situated in the Asia/Pacific region were closely interested in the development of the situation in this region. They both expressed their opposition to the seeking of hegemony in this region by any country or group of countries.

The two sides stated that although the social systems of China and Australia are different, the two countries can and should develop relations on the basis of the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. This is not only in the interests of the two peoples, but will also contribute to an improvement in international relations.

The two sides reviewed the development of bilateral relations between China and Australia and expressed satisfaction at the progress which had been made since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 21 December 1972.

The two sides expressed their gratification that as a result of an exchange of visits by their respective Ministers responsible for foreign trade, the two countries had concluded a trade agreement. They welcomed also the successful negotiation, under the umbrella of this trade agreement, of an agreement covering the purchase of Australian wheat by China over a three year period. They agreed that both Governments should study the practical

possibilities of further developing economic relations and investigate prospects for long-term agreements involving other commodities.

Both sides noted that a good beginning had been made in the field of cultural exchanges, with the successful visit to Australia by the Canton Acrobatic Troupe and the completion of arrangements for a student exchange program. Both sides agreed that it was desirable to develop a planned program of cultural, scientific and technological exchanges between China and Australia. To this end, they discussed specific areas in which contacts and exchanges would be mutually beneficial. It was agreed that representative missions in the cultural, scientific and technological fields would be exchanged during 1974.

An understanding in principle was arrived at between the two sides on travel from China to Australia by relatives of Australian citizens of Chinese descent and Chinese citizens residing in Australia.

travel from China to Aus + by relatives of

It was agreed that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries would exchange visits at times to be determined in 1974.

Foreign Affairs Ministers Exchange VISITS

The two sides also agreed to promote actively further exchanges of views between Australian and Chinese officials on questions of mutual interest.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the official visit to the People's Republic of China by the Australian Prime Minister had strengthened the ties between the two countries and friendship between the two peoples.

Prime Minister Whitlam expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China for the very cordial welcome extended to him, his wife, and members of his party during their visit to China.