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## PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA AT THE BANQUET IN HIS  
HONOUR GIVEN BY PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG - 20TH JUNE 1976

Premier Hua Kuo-Feng, distinguished Chinese friends, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I want to express my appreciation for the warmth of the welcome provided to us this afternoon, and to all those members of the Diplomatic Corps who came to the airport to greet us.

I accepted with great pleasure your invitation to visit China. My visit gives us both an opportunity to consider further our developing relationship. I come to Peking with the specific objective of deepening the understanding between our two Governments and peoples. For the future well-being of our people and of the people of the region in which we are interested, it is important that we understand each other's hopes and aspirations; each other's viewpoints on the world and regional situations. It is important that we make every effort to improve our understanding of each other. A major theme of my visit to China and Japan is the need to develop understanding between people with different histories and cultures. I strongly believe that action should be taken to improve the mutual understanding of our two countries. The Major exhibition of China's historical treasures that will shortly be going to Australia is not only greatly appreciated by Australia, but will do much to increase interest in China among Australians.

China's historical experience would provide ample justification for her being suspicious of outsiders. But the world changes - and a realistic analysis of current interests must determine attitudes. We approach foreign policy not on the basis of a country's ideology nor its social system, but on its international policies and the way it relates to other countries. What is required is an identification of the common interests countries share with one another. I believe our mutual interests are becoming clearer, and

more clearly realised by both of us. The importance to us both of future developments in the Asian/Pacific region, and the future importance of that region, provides a basis for a working relationship. There is much value in frank communication and discussion. In this way, we can each take account of the real interests of the other. We look for a realistic relationship carrying mutual practical benefits. Benefits of that sort are clearly to be seen in the growth of our trading relationship. Modern technology facilitates, and makes more necessary, greater direct personal contact, which can lead to an enduring relationship.

I am aware of China's view that there is "great disorder under heaven". In a period of disorder and uncertainty in international affairs, the need for realistic priorities and approaches to security cannot be questioned. The right to decide one's own destiny is perhaps the strongest moving force in all the countries of our region. Australia is determined to act in parallel and in concert with others to preserve its national independence. Australia is resolutely opposed to the attempt of any great powers to dominate others. Australia has long supported, including in many practical ways, cooperation between countries of South East Asia. In particular, we have built up a unique relationship with the five ASEAN countries and attach great importance to it. We support all the ASEAN countries in their efforts to ensure that no great power dominates their region. We seek stability and balance in the Indian Ocean on which we border. To our north-east we seek to build relations of mutual respect and mutual benefit with the newly-emerging nations of Oceania. With New Zealand, and the United States, we are joined in the ANZUS Treaty, by which we have undertaken to act separately and jointly to maintain and develop our individual and collective defence capacity. I therefore look forward, your Excellency, to exploring with you in more detail our respective views about the challenges confronting us in the world today.

I look forward to an exchange of ideas on how stability in our region may be built through cooperation and through the sympathetic support of others working for peace and cooperation. China, like other major powers, has a great task in improving the standard of life of her people.

I look forward to hearing about your approach to economic development and to the objectives set by your Chairman for China to achieve by the end of the century. I look forward to the opportunity you will be so generously giving me to see that economic performance in action, particularly in the field of agriculture, which is of such basic importance to both our countries, and in which I, myself, have some interest. As China succeeds in this task, her influence on world affairs will be even greater. How China exercises that influence will be a major factor determining the possibilities for world peace, for the remainder of this century and for the next. In the end, the strength of a country is the resourcefulness and application of its people, and we as Governments must always understand that we are the servants of the people, and the people are our masters.

Not the least remarkable chapter in a long and proud history, in which China has contributed so much to world civilisation, is the great efforts of her people today to build a new society benefiting all its members. It is with the importance of that great endeavour in mind, and in appreciation and gratitude for your invitation and your splendid hospitality that, on behalf of my wife and all my party, I propose a toast to Chairman Mao Tsetung, to your Excellency Premier Hua Kuo-Feng, to all distinguished guests here tonight, and to the growth of understanding between the peoples of China and Australia.

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