



PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH BY THE RT HON. MALCOLM FRASER, PRIME MINISTER OF
AUSTRALIA, AT THE BANQUET IN HONOUR OF PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG
JUNE 23RD 1976.

Premier Hua Kuo-feng, distinguished Chinese friends, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Now that our discussions have concluded I want to express my very great appreciation for the hospitality you have shown to me, to my wife and to the members of the Australian delegation. Both you yourself, and those members of the Chinese people we have been fortunate enough to meet, have treated us with unfailing courtesy and warmth, and I know this has been appreciated by us all.

The lengthy discussions we have had over the last few days have been friendly and candid. We have spoken plainly to each other - which is the only way two nations wishing to improve their mutual understanding can talk to each other. We have appreciated the detail with which you made the Chinese presentation, and we in our turn have sought to present Australia's Foreign Policy comprehensively. A major purpose of our discussions has been to advance the vitally important process of identifying common interests. This has been achieved. As we have presented our independent views of the world, we have confirmed that there are many important matters on which our views are similar. There are, of course, some matters on which we do not agree, and we have spoken about these frankly, but areas of agreement have been very broad and important. We each have spoken of our commitment to:

- World peace and security based on respect for national independence.
- The rejection of policies based on the subordination of one race to another - a subordination which offends the fundamental principles of human dignity. We all deplore the events of recent days which have led to such tragic results.

- Resolution in opposing the attempt of any great power to dominate other nations, and
- The belief that nations should make adequate provision for their legitimate defence needs.

One basic matter on which there is agreement is the need to assess the world realistically, to see it as it is - and not as we would like it to be. We for our part will base our Foreign Policy not on a country's ideology or its social system but on that country's actions and the extent to which shared interests can be identified.

The identification of those matters where there are similar assessments is a crucial part of the process of implementing a sound Foreign Policy. It is a process that, in Australia's view, requires greater attention than it has received in the past. There is a great value in regular discussions - at different levels - in advancing the identification of shared interests and elaborating one's analysis of the international situation. Australia, I believe, is well placed to pursue this process because it has good relations with many important countries concerned with the Asia/Pacific area. Australia has close and warm relations with the A.S.E.A.N. group of countries, with Papua New Guinea and Nations of the South Pacific. I have come to Peking from Japan where I signed, on behalf of Australia, a Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation and where both myself and our Foreign Minister, Mr Peacock, had wide-ranging discussions with the Leaders of Japan. Shortly I will be going to the United States to meet with President Ford. In all of my discussions I have been, and will be, seeking further clarification of those areas where important interests are shared.

A realistic view of the world requires that we place great emphasis on assessing priorities. Particularly in the current international situation clarification of priorities is of fundamental importance so that countries can ensure that all their international dealings - at all levels - advance the major objectives that they have set themselves to achieve. And it may well be that in pursuit of major objectives some matters of lesser importance ought to be set aside. For our part our dealings with other countries will be based on mutual respect and peaceful co-operation. The chances for international peace and development will be greatly enhanced if major powers can base their relations on non-interference in other countries at all levels. In securing the peaceful development of the world and the well-being of its peoples China can have a most positive and constructive role. By her words and by her actions China can help clarify and advance constructive relations between States. The future of people everywhere will be profoundly influenced by the course China pursues.

China has a long perspective on the World. In the last few days I have seen some of the past achievements of the long Chinese Civilisation. I know that China seeks also to look far into the future. The present time is an important one in setting the course for that long journey.

I am confident that our discussions have further advanced relations between China and Australia and have established a new stage for further constructive dealings at various levels in the future. Mr Premier, I am delighted that both you and your Foreign Minister have expressed your willingness to pay us a visit at appropriate times. The members of the Australian Delegation are now looking forward very much, Mr Premier, to our visit to other parts of China and to meeting more of the Chinese people. Let me now take this opportunity to thank you once again most warmly for your excellent hospitality.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen . I would like you to join me in a Toast -

- To the prosperity and well-being of China and her people
- To the health of Chairman Mao Tse-tung
- To the health of Premier Hua Kuo-feng, and to the further growth of friendship and understanding between China and Australia.