



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

11 May 1983

The following message has been sent to His Excellency Mr Zhao Ziyang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China:

"Dear Premier Zhao,

My Government welcomes the announcement of your Government's decision to award contracts for oil exploration in the South China and Yellow Seas to a consortium which includes Australia's largest company, Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd.

In our recent talks, we agreed that there was considerable scope for further developing relations between our countries and noted that there were particular opportunities for economic and commercial co-operation.

The participation of Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd in the consortium is an example of how we can co-operate in practical ways for our countries' mutual benefit. It is very pleasing, indeed, that your Government's decision follows so soon after our discussions during your visit to Australia, building on those discussions in the most practical sense.

I am sure that there will be other opportunities through which both our countries can continue to develop the relationship which was so much advanced by your recent visit.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

R.J.L. Hawke"