



## PRIME MINISTER

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SPEECH GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER AT BANQUET HOSTED BY PREMIER ZHAO ON 8 FEBRUARY.

BEGINS...

SPEECH IN REPLY, PREMIER ZHAO'S BANQUET  
WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 1984

MR PREMIER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME TO PEKING.

MR PREMIER,

I AM VERY GLAD TO BE HERE AND TO MEET WITH YOU AGAIN.

IT WAS A GREAT PLEASURE TO ME THAT YOU WERE THE FIRST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO VISIT AUSTRALIA AFTER MY GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE.

I RECALL VERY CLEARLY THE VALUE OF OUR DISCUSSION ON THAT OCCASION.

THE ACCOUNT WHICH YOU GAVE ME THEN OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA UNDER YOUR GOVERNMENT WAS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN MY DESIRE TO VISIT CHINA NOW.

I WAS THEN AND AM NOW ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE FUNDAMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CHINA AND FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF MODERNATION YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON.

THE CHANGES IN INSTITUTIONS AND ATTITUDES IMPLIED BY THAT PROGRAM ARE, I SENSE, MOMENTOUS AND HOLD THE PROSPECT OF CHANGING THE FACE OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA.

THIS I RECOGNISE IS BEING ACHIEVED ON THE BASIS OF AN ESSENTIAL CONTINUITY OF CHINESE GOVERNMENT APPROACH. THE PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE INVOLVED APPEARS TO BE CAREFULLY CALCULATED TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUED HIGH GROWTH AND FURTHER IMPROVED LIVING STANDARDS. DRAWING AS IT DOES ON AN IMPORTANT ESTABLISHED TRADITION OF WISE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AS EXEMPLIFIED EARLIER BY PREMIER ZHOU ENLAI I WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT CONTINUED SUCCESS.

LAST YEAR, WHEN I OPENED THE EXHIBITION IN CANBERRA OF THE EMPEROR QIN'S ENTOMBED WARRIORS I NOTED THAT THE NEW LEADERS OF CHINA WOULD LEAVE BEHIND A VERY DIFFERENT LEGACY FROM THE MEMORIAL MONUMENTS OF THAT EMPEROR.

I BELIEVE THAT CHINA'S CONTEMPORARY LEADERSHIP WILL BE REMEMBERED NOT ONLY IN CHINA BUT ALSO ELSEWHERE FOR HAVING ESTABLISHED A WISE AND PRAGMATIC SUCCESSION OF LEADERS TO STRENGTHEN AND LEAD CHINA FORWARD.

THIS NEW STRENGTH IN CHINA GIVES US GREAT CONFIDENCE IN APPROACHING DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU AND IN BUILDING RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

IT WILL BE CLEAR TO US ALL THAT MUCH HAS CHANGED IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND IN RELATIONS BETWEEN US IN THE PAST TWELVE YEARS. FOLLOWING ON THE 1971 INITIATIVE OF MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, GOUGH WHITLAM, WE NOW HAVE IMPORTANT AND SUBSTANTIAL LINKS. THESE ARE BUILT ON THE RECOGNITION THAT A SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, ACKNOWLEDGING CHINA'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD, SHOULD BE CENTRAL TO AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY.

OUR FUNDAMENTAL JUDGEMENT IS THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. THEY DO NOT COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF INTERESTS WE MAY HAVE ELSEWHERE. AUSTRALIA AND CHINA ARE PERMANENTLY TOGETHER IN THIS REGION. WE ARE ALREADY OLD FRIENDS - ''LAO PENGYOU'' - AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD RELATIONS ON THAT BASIS. THAT CHINA NOW ALSO HAS IMPORTANT LINKS WITH OUR TRADITIONAL ALLIES AND FRIENDS FURTHER FACILITATES AUSTRALIA-CHINA RELATIONS.

I ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION WE HAVE HAD TODAY ABOUT REGIONAL PRESSURE POINTS SUCH AS KOREA AND ABOUT THE TASKS IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD SPEND WELL OVER DLRS 1 MILLION EVERY MINUTE ON ARMS. IN A WORLD INCREASINGLY BESET BY PROBLEMS OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, SUCH LEVELS OF DEFENCE EXPENDITURE REPRESENT A TRAGIC DISTORTION OF HUMAN VALUES AND PRIORITIES.

CHINA, AS A NUCLEAR POWER, CAN I BELIEVE DO A GREAT DEAL TO ASSIST IN ENSURING NOT ONLY THAT ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT REMAIN TOWARDS THE TOP OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA, BUT ALSO THAT ACTUAL PROGRESS IS MADE.

ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIA'S AND CHINA'S STRATEGIC CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DIFFERENT, WE HAVE MADE A GOOD BEGINNING IN OUR TALKS TO WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A SUSTAINED DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES ON ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES. BESIDES ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN US, THIS SHOULD HELP TO SECURE PROGRESS IN AN AREA WHICH IS SO CRUCIAL TO MANKIND'S FUTURE SURVIVAL AND PROSPERITY.

I HAVE BEEN PLEASED ALSO TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR REGION.

THERE IS NOW WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION THAT THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IS DEMONSTRATING THE MOST RAPID AND DYNAMIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD.

THIS FACT PRESENTS PARTICULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OF US WITHIN THE REGION AND PROMISES TO BE OF VITAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN THE DECADES AHEAD.

BUT WE SHALL ONLY REALISE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THIS REGION IF WE CAN JOINTLY OR BY PARALLEL PATHS WORK TO SOLVE MAJOR PROBLEMS.

LAST YEAR, MR PREMIER, YOU EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE TRADE IMBALANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE WORKED HARD ON OUR SIDE TO ADDRESS THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN OUR TRADE AND LOOK FORWARD TO MAJOR GROWTH IN THAT RELATIONSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

WE SHALL BE GOING IN OUR OWN TALKS TOMORROW MR PREMIER, TO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN SECURING THIS RESULT. I SHOULD SIMPLY AT THIS STAGE LIKE TO OBSERVE THAT UNDERPINNING ALL OUR EFFORTS MUST BE A COMMITMENT TO MODERNISATION AS A MEANS OF SECURING NOT ONLY HIGH STANDARDS OF LIVING BUT ALSO A MORE EQUITABLE SPREAD OF BENEFITS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

MODERNISATION IS A PROCESS OF DYNAMIC CHANGE.

WITH IT ONE CAN ANTICIPATE NOT ONLY ENHANCED PROSPERITY BUT ALSO, OVER TIME, A SUBSTANTIAL UPGRADING OF COMMUNITY SERVICES SUCH AS HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

WITH SUCH CHANGE THE GROUND IS ALSO LAID FOR A MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

ALREADY MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BETWEEN US.

WE MUST NOT, HOWEVER, RELAX IN OUR EFFORTS.

BY ACCEPTING CHANGE WE, THE COUNTRIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, WILL ENHANCE THE WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLE AND CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

ON THIS BASIS, MR PREMIER, I EXPECT THE FRIENDSHIP AND STRENGTH OF RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND CHINA TO GROW.

TOAST

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

WOULD YOU NOW JOIN ME IN OFFERING A TOAST TO PRESIDENT LI ZIANNIAN (LEE SHEN-NYEN), TO PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG AND TO THE FRIENDSHIP AND PROSPERITY OF OUR TWO NATIONS AND PEOPLES.