



9

PRIME MINISTER

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT THE RETURN BANQUET FOR PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG AT THE JIANGUO HOTEL AT 7.00 PM ON FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY:

MR PREMIER, MR VICE-PREMIER
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WE ARE HONOURED BY YOUR PRESENCE TONIGHT, AND BID YOU WELCOME.

OUR TALKS, MR PREMIER, HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVE AND THOROUGH. THE UNDERSTANDING ACHIEVED IS IMPORTANT TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

THE SOUND RELATIONS NOW EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES REST ON A CLEAR APPRECIATION OF THE STRONG COMMON INTERESTS WE SHARE AND ON RESPECT FOR DIFFERENCE WHERE IT OCCURS.

WHEN YOU WERE IN AUSTRALIA, MR PREMIER, AND AGAIN DURING OUR CURRENT TALKS, YOU SPOKE OF CHINA'S 'OPEN-DOOR' POLICY TO THE REST OF THE WORLD. YOU SAW IT AS CONTRIBUTING NOT ONLY TO CHINA'S ECONOMIC MODERNISATION, BUT ALSO TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD'S UNDERSTANDING OF CHINA.

AUSTRALIA IS MAINTAINING A KEEN INTEREST IN YOUR MODERNISATION EFFORTS.

WE SHALL MAKE WHATEVER CONTRIBUTION WE CAN IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDLY CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL BENEFIT.

MR PREMIER, WE HAVE AGREED THAT OUR TRADE SHOULD BE INCREASED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED A 'CHINA ACTION PLAN' SPECIFICALLY TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE.

AS WELL, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT, NEXT JUNE, THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE CHINA-AUSTRALIA SENIOR EXECUTIVES FORUM WILL TAKE PLACE IN PEKING. THIS IS A FURTHER STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS LEADERS AND CHINESE ENTERPRISE AND AUGURS WELL FOR THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC AND TRADING LINKS BETWEEN US.

THE FORGING OF SUCH LINKS IS CONTRIBUTING IMPORTANTLY TO THE GROWTH OF SOUND UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATIVE ENDEAVOUR BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH OF CHINA'S SHARE OF THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET IN MANY SECTORS. WE WELCOME YOUR DOING SO AND WILL HELP AS A GOVERNMENT WHERE WE CAN.

AUSTRALIA, AS YOU KNOW, EXPORTS FOODSTUFFS AND RAW MATERIALS WHICH ARE CONTRIBUTING TO A STEADILY INCREASING LIVING STANDARD FOR THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN US YESTERDAY, MR PREMIER, TO ESTABLISH A JOINT WORKING PARTY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MIXED TRADE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE SCOPE FOR AUSTRALIAN SUPPLY OF PROCESSED ORE - PIG IRON AND ROUGH STEEL - TO CHINA'S STEEL MILLS, IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE SCALE AND QUALITY OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN THIS INITIATIVE, WE SEE REFLECTED AN APPRECIATION OF THE REAL BENEFITS WE CAN EACH DERIVE FROM RECOGNITION OF THE STRUCTURAL COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. THE PROPOSAL WHICH WE HAVE AGREED TO TAKE FORWARD, MR PREMIER, INVOLVES INVESTMENT IN EACH OTHER'S INDUSTRIES AND MUTUAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THERE WILL BE GREAT POTENTIAL BENEFIT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN STEEL INDUSTRY AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA'S COASTAL STEEL INDUSTRY.

A PROMISING BEGINNING IS ALSO BEING MADE WITH AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS OF EXPERTISE AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY. IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINES, THE DESIGN OF MULTI-PROJECT CHIPS, COMPUTER SOFTWARE, BIOMEDICAL INSTRUMENTATION, DIECASTING AND WELDING, AND PLASTIC MOULDING TECHNIQUES, TO NAME BUT A FEW AREAS, AUSTRALIA'S TECHNOLOGY COMPETES FAVOURABLY WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. IN THE FIELD OF MINING TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION WE ALSO HAVE MUCH TO OFFER CHINA.

IN OUR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAM WE HAVE SOUGHT TO GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. SOME FOURTEEN PROJECTS - FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE FIELDS OF FORESTRY, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, MEDICAL EDUCATION AND COMPUTER MODELLING AND ASSESSMENT - ARE ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED. I AM VERY PLEASED AS WELL THAT A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ANOTHER, THE TIANJIN BLOOD TRANSFUSION PROJECT, HAS BEEN SIGNED DURING THE COURSE OF MY VISIT.

AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE AND RESEARCH ARE ANOTHER EXCELLENT FIELD FOR COOPERATION.

OFFICIALS ARE NOW DISCUSSING AN AGRICULTURAL UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WHICH I HOPE WILL BE READY FOR SIGNATURE DURING A VISIT LATER THIS YEAR BY MY COLLEAGUE MR KERIN, THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY.

MOREOVER, THE DIRECTOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WILL ALSO SHORTLY COME TO CHINA, AT THE INVITATION OF YOUR MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE HE KANG, TO DISCUSS AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN WHICH WE CAN WORK TOGETHER. THIS WORK COULD BE BENEFICIAL NOT ONLY TO CHINA AND AUSTRALIA, BUT COULD ALSO RESULT IN A BOOST TO FOOD PRODUCTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF OUR REGION.

THE LIST OF EXCHANGES IN MANY AREAS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS A LONG ONE - AND IS GROWING.

IT INCLUDES CULTURAL GROUPS, HIGH-LEVEL LEGAL DELEGATION, AND DELEGATIONS INVOLVED IN ANTARCTIC RESEARCH, JOURNALISM, TRADE, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TO NAME JUST A FEW.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE EXCHANGES ARE ALSO EXTENSIVE. AUSTRALIANS, RELATIVE TO OUR TOTAL POPULATION, ARE THE MOST FREQUENT FOREIGN VISITORS TO CHINA.

IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, SOME 1,500 CHINESE CITIZENS VISITED AUSTRALIA IN 1983. LAST YEAR, TOO, THERE WERE ALMOST 300 CHINESE STUDENTS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTIONS.

IN 1983, ONE IN TWENTY AUSTRALIAN VISITED THE EXHIBITIONS OF XIAN FIGURES - A UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO THE HISTORY OF CHINA.

MR PREMIER, AUSTRALIANS ARE NOW MORE CONSCIOUS THAN EVER BEFORE THAT AUSTRALIA IS A COUNTRY OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND OUR DESTINY LIES IN THAT REGION.

OUR POLICY IS TO WORK STEADILY TO REDUCE TENSION, TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS, WHETHER POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC, AND TO ENSURE THAT ALL OUR PEOPLES BENEFIT FROM THE DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH OUR REGION HAS SUCH A GREAT POTENTIAL.

I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUING TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

AS A FURTHER REFLECTION OF THE GROWTH IN AUSTRALIA/CHINA RELATIONS, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TONIGHT THAT WE ARE TO ESTABLISH A CONSULATE-GENERAL IN SHANGHAI AND TO PROCEED WITH THE PLANNING OF A NEW AUSTRALIAN CHANCERY IN PEKING.

MR PREMIER, I ALSO WISH TO ANNOUNCE TONIGHT TWO OTHER DEVELOPMENTS WHICH I KNOW WILL HAVE POPULAR APPEAL IN BOTH CHINA AND AUSTRALIA. THESE ARE SPORTS EVENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE AUSTRALIA-CHINA COUNCIL AND WHICH WILL ALSO BE SPONSORED BY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES.

THE FIRST WILL BE VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OLYMPIC GAMES THIS YEAR, OF TOP CHINESE SPORTSMEN IN THREE AREAS:

- TOP CLASS GYMNASTS
- FAMOUS TABLE-TENNIS PLAYERS, AND
- MARTIAL ARTS EXPERTS.

I KNOW AUSTRALIANS WILL GIVE THESE PERFORMANCES A WARM WELCOME.

WE ALSO PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH AN "AUSTRALIA-CHINA SOCCER CUP" TO BE COMPETED FOR REGULARLY.

THE FIRST CONTEST WILL BE LATER IN 1984 WHEN AN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER TEAM WILL VISIT CHINA. I BELIEVE THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO BUILDING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF CHINA AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.

TOAST (UNDERLINE ONE)

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PRESIDENT LI XIANNIAN, PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG AND OTHER CHINESE LEADERS AND TO FRIENDSHIP AND INCREASING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.