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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

15 APRIL 1985

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENTARY LUNCHEON IN HONOUR OF HU YAUBANG  
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

CANBERRA - 15 APRIL 1985

YOUR EXCELLENCY GENERAL-SECRETARY HU, DISTINGUISHED LEADERS  
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA AND SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA AND OF SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY,  
AMBASSADOR NIE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND IN THE  
PARLIAMENT, AND ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE, MAY I  
WELCOME YOU FORMALLY TO AUSTRALIA.

YOUR VISIT FOLLOWS THE VERY PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VISITS  
BETWEEN PREMIER ZHAO AND MYSELF IN 1983 AND 1984. IT  
PROVIDES THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
EXPRESS TO YOU THE PROFOUND IMPORTANCE AUSTRALIA ATTACHES  
TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND THE HIGH REGARD THAT  
WE HAVE FOR YOUR NATION AND FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN RECENT  
YEARS.

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UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR PARTY, THE OUTPUT AND EFFICIENCY OF CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR HAVE DEVELOPED DRAMATICALLY.

BETWEEN 1953 AND 1978 YOUR AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT GREW UNEVENLY AND SLOWLY. YOU TRIPLED THE RATE OF GROWTH AFTER 1979 AND IN 1984 ACHIEVED A FURTHER DOUBLING TO 14.5 PERCENT.

THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY A RESTRUCTURING OF YOUR AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY, GIVING GREAT FREEDOM TO FARMING HOUSEHOLDS NOT ONLY TO PRODUCE MORE BUT ALSO TO ENRICH THEIR LIVES. MORE MAJOR TASKS, OF BUILDING RURAL INDUSTRY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, TO MEET CONSUMER NEEDS, LIE AHEAD.

NOW YOU ARE CARRYING THE ECONOMIC REFORMS INTO THE CITIES OF CHINA. THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENTS. THE AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH OF CONSUMPTION FROM 1953 TO 1978 WAS 2.2 PERCENT AND THAT FROM 1979 TO 1984, AFTER ALLOWING FOR INFLATION, WAS 7.5 PERCENT.

IN 1984, TO HASTEN THE PACE OF GROWTH AND MODERNIZATION, YOU ADOPTED POLICIES ALLOWING MORE OPEN ECONOMIC AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN OCTOBER 1984 YOU MADE A FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT THAT THE SWEEPING REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE APPLIED TO INDUSTRY AND THAT IN FUTURE THE SERVICE SECTOR AND THE NEEDS OF CONSUMERS WOULD HAVE HIGH PRIORITY.

YOUR 7TH 5-YEAR PLAN (1986-1990) ENVISAGES THE CONTINUATION OF ALL THESE POLICIES AND MANY MORE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA. THESE ARE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE ALSO TO AUSTRALIA AS THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE WE CAN MAKE DIRECT INPUTS INTO THE PROCESS TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS NOT EASY. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO MAKE CHANGES IN A SOCIETY OF 15 MILLION. YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE PROFOUND CHANGES IN A SOCIETY OF ONE BILLION, EQUAL TO THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD IN 1850.

YOU HAVE OUR ADMIRATION FOR THE COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION WITH WHICH YOU ARE PURSUING THESE NEW DIRECTIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU OF THE SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE FOR WHAT YOU ARE SEEKING TO ACHIEVE: A MODERN EFFICIENT NATION COMMITTED TO A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS REGION.

YOUR VISIT, GENERAL-SECRETARY, IS AN HISTORIC ONE

- IT MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE PROGRESS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
- IT ALSO MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE PROGRESS OF OUR REGION TOWARDS PEACE AND HARMONY.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A WARMTH OF FRIENDSHIP THAT WILL ENABLE OUR RELATIONS TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER.

GENERAL-SECRETARY, IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS WE WILL BE HOLDING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE BREADTH OF OUR COMMON INTERESTS AND THE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

I HAVE PLEDGED TO YOU OUR SUPPORT FOR THE GROWTH OF YOUR NATION AND THE WELFARE OF YOUR PEOPLE.

AUSTRALIA'S GROWTH OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES HAS BECOME INTIMATELY LINKED TO THAT OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION. IT WILL REMAIN SO LINKED IN THE DECADES AHEAD AND THE LINKAGE WITH CHINA WILL GROW STILL MORE CRUCIAL WITH THE YEARS.

THE VERY SCALE AND DIVERSITY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT OFFER A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO AUSTRALIA WHICH WE ARE DETERMINED TO MEET. IT IS A CHALLENGE NOT SIMPLY TO AUSTRALIAN RESOURCE INDUSTRIES, BUT TO AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS ACROSS THE BOARD; TO SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS AS WELL AS TO LARGE CORPORATIONS, AND EXTENDING FROM AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCES TO INDUSTRY AND SERVICES.

I INVITE AUSTRALIANS TO ACCEPT THE HISTORIC CHALLENGE TO WORK WITH CHINA, AND TO INTEGRATE OUR ECONOMY WITH THE DYNAMIC WESTERN PACIFIC REGION, OF WHICH CHINA AND AUSTRALIA ARE IMPORTANT PARTS. HERE IN AUSTRALIA THIS MEANS PUTTING INTO PLACE EFFECTIVE POLICIES FOR GROWTH, STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND EXPANDED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. GREAT PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE IN THIS DIRECTION.

I KNOW FROM MY DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU, GENERAL-SECRETARY, AND FROM ALL OUR DEALINGS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES, THAT CHINA FOR ITS PART WELCOMES THE PROSPECT OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP WITH AUSTRALIA.

IT WILL BE A REAL CHALLENGE FOR US, BECAUSE CHINA IS MOVING FAST AND WORKING VERY HARD. YOU SET A HIGH STANDARD OF DILIGENCE.

GENERAL-SECRETARY HU: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN US IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION SHOULD NOT AND WILL NOT BE AN EXCLUSIVE ARRANGEMENT. WE BOTH SEEK PEACEFUL RELATIONS AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS.

WE WILL TALK ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES THIS AFTERNOON. WE AGREE ON VERY MANY MATTERS AND IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS NOT AN EXACT COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS WE CAN SEEK TO IDENTIFY LONG TERM OBJECTIVES TOWARDS WHICH WE CAN WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY.

CHINA'S ADOPTION OF AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE. WE VALUE OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, AND NOT AS A PART OF SOME STRATEGIC EQUATION.

FOR BOTH OF US IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IN THE END WE HAVE A WORLD AND A REGION OF PEACE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES, FINDING THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT PLACES POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, WOULD BE PART OF THIS REGION OF PEACE.

IF AUSTRALIA CAN REACH THE OBJECTIVES IT SEEKS IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY, WE MUST ALL FACE THE FACT THAT OUR ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE AT RISK IF THERE REMAINS IN THE REGION AN ISOLATED COUNTRY AT LOGGERHEADS WITH OTHERS, AND TIED VIRTUALLY EXCLUSIVELY TO THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES. AS WE MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR OWN GOALS, WE MUST SEEK TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIETNAM TO DIVERSIFY ITS RELATIONS AND ACHIEVE A MORE SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL IT NEIGHBOURS.

WITHOUT EXAGGERATING OUR CAPACITY, AUSTRALIA WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP PROGRESS TOWARDS A RESOLUTION OF THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM. TO THIS END, WE LOOK FORWARD TO MAINTAINING OUR DIALOGUE WITH CHINA AND OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT FROM AUSTRALIA YOU WILL TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND, WESTERN SAMOA, FIJI AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA. FOR AUSTRALIA THESE COUNTRIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT FRIENDS AND PARTNERS. WE WELCOME YOUR INTEREST IN FURTHER BUILDING CHINA'S LINKS WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE PACIFIC.

WE IN THE LABOR PARTY TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE HISTORICAL INITIATIVES TAKEN BY OUR FORMER LEADER, GOUGH WHITLAM, FIRST IN OPPOSITION AND LATER IN GOVERNMENT, IN PIONEERING AUSTRALIA'S OPENING TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE EARLY 1970'S.

WE ALSO RECOGNISE THE ROLE PLAYED SUBSEQUENTLY BY THE LIBERAL/NATIONAL PARTY COALITION UNDER MALCOLM FRASER IN DEVELOPING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR COUNTRY. THE RESULT IS THAT FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA ARE SUPPORTED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS AND THIS HAS BECOME A MAJOR CENTRAL COMMITMENT OF THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN THIS COUNTRY.

TOMORROW WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS OUR RESPECTIVE ECONOMIC PROGRAMS AND TO CONSIDER THE BROAD VISTAS FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND CHINA. CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN FRIENDSHIP ALONE WILL NOT SECURE RAPID GROWTH IN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. THAT CAN ONLY FLOW FROM OUR ABILITY TO OFFER EACH OTHER COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES AND TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE MUTUALLY PROFITABLE.

THE POLITICAL CONSENSUS IN AUSTRALIA IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH CHINA IS STRONGLY MIRRORED AMONG AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS, RURAL AND UNION INTERESTS.

ON WEDNESDAY, YOU WILL MEET THE MEMBERS OF OUR ECONOMIC PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS AND TRADE UNIONS. I AM SURE YOU WILL HAVE A PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THEM ON THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND CHINA THAT WILL BE OF LASTING ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO BOTH OUR NATIONS.

GENERAL-SECRETARY, YOUR VISIT HAS ALREADY TAKEN YOU TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND ON WEDNESDAY YOU WILL VISIT NEW SOUTH WALES. THESE STATES - INDEED ALL THE AUSTRALIAN STATES - ARE SEEKING TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA.

AND WHILE IN SYDNEY, YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHINESE COMMUNITY, WHO HAVE MADE SUCH AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIA, AND WHO SERVE AS A PERMANENT BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US.

GENERAL-SECRETARY, FOR SOME TIME NOW, AND CERTAINLY SINCE WE CAME TO GOVERNMENT, I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT IS HAPPENING IN OUR WORLD THAN THE QUIET CONSTRUCTIVE REVOLUTION THAT IS OCCURRING IN YOUR COUNTRY. WITH IMAGINATION AND APPROPRIATE REGARD TO YOUR OWN PHILOSOPHICAL COMMITMENTS YOU ARE RELEASING THE INITIATIVE AND ENTERPRISE OF A DYNAMIC PEOPLE CONSTITUTING ALMOST A QUARTER OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION. IT IS A PROCESS WHICH HAS PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS FOR GOOD, FOR CHINA, FOR THE REGION, AND FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.



I COUNT IT AS ONE OF THE GREAT PRIVILEGES OF OFFICE THAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY BY YOU AND YOUR FELLOW LEADERS TO PLAY A PART IN ASSOCIATING OUR COUNTRY MORE CLOSELY WITH YOU AS YOU PROCEED DOWN THIS PATH. NOTHING WILL BE MORE SIGNIFICANT FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AUSTRALIANS THAN THAT WE SHOULD SUCCEED NOW IN CONSOLIDATING UNBREAKABLE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES. THAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY, THE CHALLENGE WITH WHICH WE ARE FACED. THE FACT AND THE SPIRIT OF YOUR VISIT, GENERAL-SECRETARY, ENTITLE US TO BELIEVE THAT, TOGETHER, WE SHALL SUCCEED.

MAY I, YOUR EXCELLENCY, INVITE ALL THOSE PRESENT TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST:

. TO THE HEALTH OF GENERAL-SECRETARY HU YAOBANG

. TO THE HEALTH OF THE OTHER LEADERS OF YOUR PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AND THEIR DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES HERE TODAY

. TO WARM FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN A STRONG AND LASTING PARTNERSHIP.

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