



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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At the invitation of the Premier, Zhao Ziyang, I shall make my second official visit to the People's Republic of China between 18 and 25 May 1986.

This visit will be a further step in consolidating the close and constructive relationship which has been developing between Australia and China. Under the 7th Five Year Plan (1986-1990) China will step up the modernisation of its industries and economic structure. Australia is well equipped to provide quality raw materials and technology required to achieve the objectives of the plan. As well, the process of modernisation and structural change in Australia will, in time, offer expanding market opportunities in which China will be well placed to share. Already these complementarities between our two economies are bearing fruit, as trade between us continues to grow.

I hope that my second visit to China, following the successful visits to Australia by Premier Zhao in 1983 and that last year by the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Hu Yaobang, will add impetus and scope to our bilateral dialogue and to the range of bilateral initiatives.

The importance we attach to our relationship with China has been underscored in recent years by the increasing tempo of ministerial and other high-level visits. I expect that discussions on bilateral economic and trade matters will cover Australia-China cooperation across a wide range of areas, including those which have been the subject of earlier discussions with the Chinese leadership, particularly iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, wool and transport industries. The itinerary for the visit will include visits to sites in several provinces where economic cooperation between our two countries is proceeding.

I expect also to continue discussions with the Chinese leadership on a range of important international regional issues of mutual concern. I welcome the opportunity I shall have to open the third China-Australia Senior Executive Forum in Beijing and to exchange views on the future of the economic relationship with senior Australian and Chinese business figures.