

BANQUET HOSTED BY GOVERNOR OF SICHUAN IN CHENGDU

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 1986

RETURN TOAST SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER

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GOVERNOR JIANG

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TONIGHT WE ARE IN THE CENTRE OF CHINA. I AM GLAD THAT ON MY PRESENT VISIT I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE CHINA'S DIVERSITY AT FIRST HAND. I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SICHUAN, CHINA'S MOST POPULOUS REGION AND ONE OF ITS MOST SIGNIFICANT.

ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR ME IS HEIGHTENED BY MY KNOWLEDGE THAT SICHUAN IS THE "OLD HOME" OF MY DEAR FRIENDS: GENERAL SECRETARY HU YAOBANG, WHO I AM HONOURED COULD MEET ME HERE TODAY, AND MY HOST IN CHINA, PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG.

SICHUAN IS ALSO, OF COURSE, WELL KNOWN AS THE "OLD HOME" OF THE AGRICULTURAL REFORMS OF THE LATE 1970S WHICH SIGNALLED A NEW PHASE IN CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT. THE CONCEPTS OF "RESPONSIBILITY" AND "TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS WORK", DEVELOPED HERE IN SICHUAN, HAVE HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE MODE AND VOLUME OF CHINA'S PRODUCTION. ONE IS IMPRESSED BY THE BOLDNESS WITH WHICH A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR WORK WAS PIONEERED HERE, CONSISTENT WITH SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES BUT EXPRESSING THOSE PRINCIPLES IN NEW TERMS.

2.

SUCH BOLDNESS HAS APPARENTLY PAID OFF. SICHUAN, DESPITE ITS HUGE POPULATION, IS NOW, I UNDERSTAND, AN EXPORTER OF FOOD. IT CAN NOW AFFORD TO INVEST IN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY SO AS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF ITS AGRICULTURAL BASE. SUCH BOLDNESS, OF COURSE, BRINGS ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITIES AS PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK TO SICHUAN, AS THE HOME OF REFORM, FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

WHEN WE THINK ABOUT SICHUAN WE THINK ABOUT AGRICULTURE, BUT TODAY I HAVE DISCOVERED SICHUAN IS DIVERSIFYING. AT THE XINXING FACTORY TODAY I WAS PROUD TO SEE AN AUSTRALIAN COMPANY INVOLVED IN PIONEERING A HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROJECT HERE. THIS PROJECT IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE COOPERATION THAT EXISTS AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROMOTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SKILL AND ENTHUSIASM HAVE COMBINED TO GET A FINE PROJECT OFF THE GROUND. I AM GRATIFIED THAT THE PROJECT IS WAY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND THAT I COULD SEE IT TODAY SO NEAR TO COMPLETION. I AM PROUD TO SEE THAT AN AUSTRALIAN COMPANY HAS PROVIDED THE SKILL AND TRAINING TO ESTABLISH THE PROJECT.

TODAY I AM ALSO DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT AUSTRALIA IS TO BE LOANED TWO PANDAS AS CHINA'S CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIA'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS.

3.

I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE SOMETHING OF SICHUAN'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AT FIRST HAND TOMORROW AND TO HAVE LOCAL METHODS EXPLAINED TO ME BY SUCH DISTINGUISHED HOSTS.

I KNOW NOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT SICHUAN IS NOT JUST ABOUT AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL REFORM, IT IS ALSO ABOUT DIVERSIFICATION AND THE CHALLENGE THAT DIVERSIFICATION BRINGS. I AM PROUD TO SEE AUSTRALIANS INVOLVED IN THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE SICHUAN ECONOMY. I HOPE THAT AUSTRALIANS CONTINUE TO COME TO SICHUAN AND THAT SICHUAN CONTINUES TO DIVERSIFY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE HEALTH OF GOVERNOR JIANG (AND OF GENERAL SECRETARY HU,) TO THE HEALTH OF ALL DISTINGUISHED GUESTS HERE TONIGHT AND TO THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE PROVINCE OF SICHUAN.

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