

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER
SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON WOOL WAREHOUSE PROJECT
NANJING, 22 MAY 1986

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE PRESENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL CORPORATION AND THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY. I CONGRATULATE THE TWO ORGANISATIONS ON THIS SIGNIFICANT STEP THEY HAVE TAKEN TOWARDS BUILDING A WAREHOUSE IN NANJING FOR THE HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRALIAN WOOL.

AUSTRALIA IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST EFFICIENT PRODUCER OF FINE QUALITY WOOL. IN CHINA THE TERM "AO MAO" (AUSTRALIAN WOOL) IS SYNONYMOUS WITH EXCELLENCE AND AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN A LONG AND RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF WOOL TO CHINA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

CHINA'S PRODUCTION OF TEXTILES ALSO HAS A LONG AND OUTSTANDING TRADITION. HERE IN NANJING WE ARE IN THE CENTRE OF A DISTRICT WHICH HAS BEEN PRODUCING SILK TEXTILES FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS. IN RECENT YEARS WE NOTE THAT JIANGSU PROVINCE HAS BECOME THE MOST RAPIDLY GROWING CENTRE OF CHINA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY. CHINA'S COTTON AND OTHER TEXTILES AND GARMENTS ARE LEADING EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA AND TO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

2.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO DEVELOPING CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA TO EXPAND PRODUCTION OF WOOLLEN TEXTILES FOR CHINA'S OWN MARKET AND FOR EXPORT AROUND THE WORLD. SUCH CO-OPERATION IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL CORPORATION, HAVE AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THIS WOOL WAREHOUSE IN CHINA FOR AUSTRALIAN WOOL. THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL CORPORATION HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE BUILDING AND MANAGEMENT OF WOOL WAREHOUSING. ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT WILL ENSURE THAT THE WAREHOUSE INCORPORATES STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY AND MACHINERY.

I RECALL THAT DURING THE VISIT TO AUSTRALIA OF GENERAL-SECRETARY HU YAOBANG LAST YEAR, HE AND I DISCUSSED THE DESIRABILITY OF MORE CONCENTRATED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATION IN THE WOOL INDUSTRY. IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING

- A FIVE-FOLD INCREASE, IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR TERMS, IN WOOL EXPORTS IN THE PERIOD 1984/85
- THREE JOINT-VENTURE ENTERPRISES IN WOOLLEN TEXTILES, ALL OF THEM EXPORTING PRODUCTS TO THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS
- MORE JOINT VENTURES UNDER DISCUSSION

3.

- THE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR UNDER WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES ARE STUDYING WAYS TO DEVELOP TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN ALL AREAS RELATING TO THE WOOL INDUSTRY

- AND NOW WE HAVE TODAY'S PROGRESS ON THE WOOL WAREHOUSE.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT TO AUSTRALIA NEXT MONTH BY VICE MINISTER HE ZHENG ZHANG FOR THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE JOINT-WORKING GROUP ON WOOL.

IT IS THEREFORE MOST PLEASING TO BE PRESENT IN CHINA TO WITNESS THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE PROPOSAL FOR CLOSER CO-OPERATION IN THIS FIELD WHICH GENERAL-SECRETARY HU AND I DISCUSSED LAST YEAR. I WOULD LIKE PERSONALLY TO CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT.
