

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
NANJING BANQUET - 23 MAY 1986

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YOUR EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR GU XIULIAN, VICE GOVERNOR CHEN HUAN YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY VICE-MAYOR WANG RONG BING, DISTINGUISHED CHINESE GUESTS AND AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUES.

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR GU, FOR YOUR WARM WORDS OF WELCOME TO YOUR FAMOUS PROVINCE AND SERENE AND BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL CITY. IT IS INDEED A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE ON THE GROUND THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF JUST CIRCLING OVERHEAD. I WELL RECALL HOW THE WEATHER TREACHEROUSLY INTERVENED WHEN I WAS LAST IN CHINA TO INCONVENIENCE YOU AT THE AIRPORT, WAITING PATIENTLY FOR US ON THAT MISERABLE WINTER'S DAY. MY PARTY AND I WERE BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED WHEN ADVISED THAT LANDING WAS IMPOSSIBLE. THIS TIME WE HAVE MADE IT!

I WAS DETERMINED TO RETURN TO NANJING AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY AND I HAVE MADE YOUR RICH AND ACCOMPLISHED PROVINCE AND ITS HISTORIC CAPITAL CITY A MAJOR FOCAL POINT OF MY PRESENT VISIT.

JIANGSU PROVINCE IS, OF COURSE, WELL-KNOWN TO AUSTRALIANS AS THE VANGUARD OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CURRENT ERA OF CHINA'S DRAMATIC NATIONAL ECONOMIC REFORMS. WE HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR SUCCESSES WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN RECENT YEARS AND MUST CONGRATULATE YOU IN PARTICULAR ON YOUR GREAT ACHIEVEMENT IN BECOMING CHINA'S LEADING INDUSTRIAL PROVINCE IN 1985. TO HAVE DOUBLED INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT FROM AN ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL BASE IN JUST FIVE YEARS IS A REMARKABLE FEAT.

2.

JIANGSU IS, AS YOU HAVE NOTED, ESPECIALLY WELL-KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE OF VICTORIA FOR ITS ACTIVE CO-OPERATION IN DEVELOPING WHAT HAS BECOME A MODEL SISTER PROVINCE-SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP. TOP LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES HAVE GIVEN SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL SUPPORT TO BUILDING UP THE MOMENTUM OF EXCHANGES. VISITS AT THE HIGHEST PROVINCIAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT LEVELS HAVE BEEN A REGULAR FEATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

I RECALL WITH PLEASURE MEETING GOVERNOR GU IN AUSTRALIA IN JUNE 1984 - AT WHICH TIME I WAS ABLE TO APOLOGISE PERSONALLY FOR KEEPING HER OUT IN THE COLD. PARTY SECRETARY HAN PEIXIN WAS A FURTHER ABLE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS PROVINCE WHEN HE VISITED AUSTRALIA IN AUGUST LAST YEAR. PREMIER CAIN OF VICTORIA HAS ONLY LAST WEEK COMPLETED HIS SECOND SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO JIANGSU AND HAS BEEN MORE FORTUNATE THAN I IN HAVING TIME TO ENJOY NOT ONLY NANJING, BUT ALSO YOUR PROVINCE'S HISTORIC BEAUTY SPOTS OF SUZHOU AND WUXI.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF JIANGSU AND VICTORIA (AND MANY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES IN OTHER STATES) ALREADY HAVE WELL ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL CO-OPERATION AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES IN THE AREAS OF FOOD PROCESSING AND PACKAGING AND LIGHT MANUFACTURES. THIS BASE IS TO BE REINFORCED BY A MAJOR EXHIBITION IN NANJING, CO-SPONSORED BY THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE COMMISSION, THIS COMING SEPTEMBER.

3.

IN ADDITION, VICTORIA HAS A CLOSE INTEREST, WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS, IN INVOLVING ITSELF IN A SIGNIFICANT PORT DEVELOPMENT IN JIANGSU. AS A PART OF TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS, THIS IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR YOUR OWN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN ITS SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, AND IS ALSO AN AGREED SECTOR FOR CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA. I SHALL LEAVE NANJING MUCH BETTER INFORMED ABOUT JIANGSU'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS IN FORGING EVEN STRONGER PORT CONNECTIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

JIANGSU HAS RECENTLY BECOME THE FOCUS OF ANOTHER MAJOR BILATERAL SECTORAL INITIATIVE - WOOL. I HAD PLEASURE THIS AFTERNOON IN PARTICIPATING IN A CEREMONY MARKING A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT BY AUSTRALIA AND CHINA OF A WOOL STORE IN A SUBURB OF NANJING. THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS OF JIANGSU'S WOOLLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS SOMETHING IN WHICH I KNOW THE GOVERNOR TAKES A CLOSE PROFESSIONAL INTEREST.

IN YET ANOTHER KEY AREA OF CO-OPERATION I LOOK FORWARD TOMORROW TO SEEING SHANGHAI'S MAJOR INVESTMENT IN JIANGSU PROVINCE - THE MEISHAN IRON COMPLEX. AUSTRALIAN IRON ORE COMES RIGHT UP THE MIGHTY YANGTZE RIVER TO FEED ITS BLAST FURNACE AND COMMERCIAL CONTACTS CONTINUE ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN MEISHAN'S EXPANSION PLANS.

I THEREFORE PROPOSE A TOAST:

- TO PRESENT AND FUTURE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND JIANGSU IN THE AREAS OF PORT DEVELOPMENT, WOOL PROCESSING AND IRON AND STEEL
  
  - TO JIANGSU'S AND VICTORIA'S HAPPY AND MUTUALLY REWARDING PARTNERSHIP, AND
  
  - TO THE GOOD HEALTH OF GOVERNOR GU, VICE-GOVERNOR CHEN, VICE MAYOR WANG AND ALL OTHER CHINESE AND AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS HERE TONIGHT.
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