



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW AT FOSTER'S-HUAGUANG FOUNDATION STONE-LAYING CEREMONY, SHANGHAI - 26 JUNE 1993

J: Prime Minister, how important is it that this project is a symbol of Australia's intentions towards business in China?

PM: Well, I think it is very important because its a major project by major company, with a major company, and it's important because it's also about high technology. Beer is basically technology and we are amongst the technological leaders in the world and therefore seeing these two companies doing something in joint venture is a tangible - a tangible benefit for the relationship between China and Australia.

And this is the kind of thing that Vice Mayor Zhao has said to me in the last twenty four hours about China and Australia doing things together.

J: Is it also important to get a recognised cultural symbol of Australia in China?

PM: Well I think that helps and beer is a bulk commodity for people and it'll always have the Australian ring to it, with Fosters, so we're developing - the whole world is about brand names these days - so we're not only developing a brand name further but we're doing it in a part of the world that wants us here.

J: Prime Minister, the growth rate here around twenty six percent, that really sounds like gangbusters. Do you think it can keep going or will it have to slow down sooner rather than later?

PM: I think the government wants to slow it down but as the Vice Mayor has told me in Pudong, this area of Shanghai, its developing under a national proposal so its not going to slow down.

So Shanghai is probably Australia's gateway to China, or one of them, and that's why I'm so delighted to be here with the Vice Mayor in seeing this project begin.

J: Mr Keating, as you leave China what are the major things you feel you've learnt, in the few days you've been here, about the place?

PM: Well I think its again the further development of the relationship. Its been, I think, a good couple of days well spent in meeting the Premier and the Vice Premier, Li Peng and Zhu Rongji. And I think in a tangible way apart from better understanding where we're going, talking about the Pacific, talking about APEC, but also talking about particular business opportunities for Australia in major expansions of steel with iron ore, of wool. If we can bring that off.

These things are I think great trading and commercial opportunities for Australia which can only been done basically by visits, by building the personal relationships.

J: Do you think Beijing is coloured by the hope of Olympics by 2000?

PM: Well, that's not in our hands.

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