



# PRIME MINISTER

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

RECEPTION FOR THE CHINESE NATIONAL PEOPLES' CONGRESS  
CANBERRA - 6 MAY 1986

Mr Peng Chong, and distinguished members of the delegation of the National Peoples' Congress of the Peoples' Republic of China.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Australia on behalf of the Government and people of Australia.

Senator McClelland led an Australian Parliamentary delegation to China last year and was received by your National Peoples' Congress with the traditional hospitality for which the Chinese people are famous. I hope our hospitality will reciprocate in some part the kindness and generosity you showed the Australian delegation in China.

Distinguished guests, Australia places considerable importance on the development of mutual beneficial relations with China. This view is not only shared by my government but by all major political parties of Australia, as I am sure my colleague the Leader of the Opposition will agree.

Australia and China have made remarkable progress in the development of constructive friendly relations since 1972. I am pleased this progress has been accelerated under my Government in the past three years.

When Premier Zhao visited Australia in April 1983 we began a new phase of co-operation. Premier Zhao and I agreed during my visit to China in February 1984 that we should work together to make the Australia/China relationship a model for co-operative relations between countries of different political and economic systems.

We have developed the concept of sectoral initiatives and the China Action Plan, both of which are designed to promote greater economic co-operation which takes advantage of the economic strength and requirements for growth in each country.

Premier Zhao and I were able to agree in 1984 on the first of the sectoral initiatives, in Iron and Steel. We are continuing to develop this initiative as well as extending the concept to other important fields. These include non-ferrous metals, transport and woollen products.

At the same time we have not concentrated only on our economic relations. Both countries believe this relationship of genuine friendship and co-operation should be as broadly-based as possible. Apart from trade and commercial relations, we regard cultural, scientific, technological and sporting exchanges as essential elements of the relationship.

Moreover, over the past few years we have developed a most productive dialogue on a wide range of regional and international issues of importance to both countries.

The visit to Australia of General-Secretary Hu Yaobang in April 1985 was a high point in recent exchanges between our countries.

I myself am looking forward to my visit to China in just under two weeks time, when I will be able to renew my valued friendships with senior Chinese leaders. I also look forward to seeing more of the diversity and achievements of China when I visit a number of important centres outside Beijing, including Chengdu [Cheng-doo], Nanjing [Nan-jing] and Xiamen [See-ar-men].

Parliamentary exchanges are a most important element in developing people-to-people contacts between our two countries. For this reason your visit is particularly welcome and I wish you a most successful, interesting and pleasant visit to Australia.

\*\*\*\*\*