

PREMIER HUA'S VISIT : BACKGROUND NOTE

The following notes can be used on an unattributable basis as an addition to the information given in the press notice about Premier Hua's visit to Britain.

Programme

Premier Hua is arriving here from France and West Germany on 28 October and he leaves for Italy on 3 November. It is his first visit to Western Europe.

We hope to have a definitive programme to give to the press by the week beginning 22 October. Meanwhile, as general guidance, we can say that there will be two sessions of talks with the Prime Minister - the first on Monday, 29 October and the second on Thursday, 1 November. The Prime Minister will also give a dinner for Premier Hua at No. 10 on 30 October and there will be a return dinner at the Chinese Embassy on 2 November. We do not yet have final details of the regional visits but they are likely to take place on 31 October/1 November (Midlands) and on 2 November (Oxford).

Subjects for discussion: in addition to general topics mentioned in the press notice, we can mention the following, if asked, on an unattributable basis -

Defence Sales : Harriers

Defence sales to China may well be raised as part of our overall trading relationship, but there are no plans to sign any contracts during the visit. Commercial negotiations for the possible supply of Harriers are still going on between ourselves and the Chinese - details are, of course, confidential.

Hong Kong - will doubtless be among the bilateral issues discussed. Our relations with the Chinese Government over Hong Kong are now very good and the Chinese Governments have made clear that they share our interest in Hong Kong's continuing prosperity and stability.

Bilateral Trade

Details of the level of trade are given in the press notice. There are no plans to sign specific commercial contracts during Premier Hua's visit. Bilateral trade will, of course, be discussed and we hope that the visit will serve to enhance our commercial prospects in China.

Recent Official Chinese Visitors to Britain

	<u>1979</u>
Vice Premier, Geng Biao	June
Minister of Sport, Wang Meng	June
Politbureau Member and Chairman of the Szechwan Revolutionary Committee, Zhao Ziyang	June
Minister of Agriculture, Huo Shilian	July
Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Yang Yong	July
Minister of Education Jiang Nanxiang	July

In the other direction, the only official British visitor to China since the General Election in May has been H.R.H. The Duke of Kent in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, although, of course, we do not want to draw attention to the present imbalance which will no doubt be corrected in time.

Premier Hua's Previous Travels

Premier Hua's only known previous visits abroad have been to North Korea, Romania, Yugoslavia and Iran in 1978.