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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 February, 1982

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Dear Sir Y.K.,

Thank you for your letter of 8 February. Peter Carrington has told me of your recent meeting in Manila. I am afraid it is still too early to say whether or not I shall be able to launch the ship you are building in Shanghai when I visit China in September. As you know I would like to do so if it can fit in with the rest of the programme. But planning is still at an early stage, and we do not yet know what the Chinese will want to include - I shall be their guest and of course do not wish to presume on their hospitality. Let us keep in touch on this. *I will do it if I possibly can.*

As for the invitation to Vice-Premier Gu Mu, Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, renewed this when he saw the Vice-Premier on 12 December. Humphrey Atkins also mentioned it to Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Canming when he was in Peking last month. We now wait to hear what dates the Chinese will propose.

I look forward to seeing you in Sunderland on 12 March.

Be very good with

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Sir Yue-Kong Pao, C.B.E., J.P.

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