



Prime Minister

Do you agree that
an invitation should
be issued in these
terms?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 May 1979

Dear Bryan,

BH
18/5

Agreed and.

China: Possible Visit by Premier Hua Guofeng

The Chinese Government told our Embassy in Peking early in April that Premier Hua Guofeng wished to take up the invitation which had been issued to him by Mr Callaghan in 1978. They proposed a visit to Britain from 29 October to 5 November, following visits to France and West Germany. The formal visit would last from 30 October to 3 November, allowing 4 November for rest.

The level of recent Chinese visitors to this country has risen in line with the general improvement in our bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Huang Hua's visit in October 1978 was followed in November by a visit by Vice Premier Wang Zhen, the most senior member of the Chinese Government yet to visit this country. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary considers that a visit by Premier Hua Guofeng would be a logical and desirable development of this process, and that it would be commercially and politically disadvantageous if on his first visit to Western Europe Premier Hua were to visit France and West Germany and not Britain.

Although he now probably wields less political power than Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, Mr Hua remains in formal terms China's most senior leader. In his capacity as both Premier and Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, he outranks Mr Deng, as he does also, in Party terms, China's nearest equivalent to a titular Head of State, Marshal Ye Jianying, the Chairman of the National People's Congress.

Premier Hua was accorded Head of State treatment when he visited Romania and Yugoslavia last year, and we expect the Germans, and particularly the French, to involve their Presidents more actively than would be usual for other Prime Ministerial visits to Bonn and Paris. It would therefore be appropriate to recommend involvement by The Queen; Buckingham Palace have been consulted on a contingency basis and have indicated that The Queen would be free to give a Dinner for Mr Hua on 30 October.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary therefore hopes that the Prime Minister will agree to receive Premier Hua on

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/the

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/ the dates suggested by the Chinese; and recommends that an invitation should be issued to him. We would expect the visit to include two sessions of talks, exchanges of hospitality, and a trip outside London. I enclose a draft telegram of instructions to Peking which, if the Prime Minister agrees, we would arrange to despatch.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J S Wall', written in a cursive style.

J S Wall
Private Secretary

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File No.
Department FED
Drafted by
(Block Capitals)
Tel. Extn.....

OUTWARD
TELEGRAM

Security Classification CONFIDENTIAL
Precedence PRIORITY
DESKBYZ

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[TEXT]

^{Prime}
YOUR TELNO 364: HUA'S EUROPEAN TOUR

1. The Prime Minister has agreed to Hua's visit on the dates proposed.

2. You should now issue an invitation in the Prime Minister's name and say that the proposed dates would be convenient. You should add that the Prime Minister much looks forward to receiving Hua and believes that his visit will provide a very useful opportunity for a full exchange of views on international and bilateral issues as well as indicating clearly the continuing improvement of the good relations between our two Governments.

Copies to:-

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China
c.c. Miss Stephens

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 May, 1979.
BF 21/679

China: Visit by Premier Hua Guofeng

Thank you for your letter of 18 May, in which you conveyed the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's recommendation that an invitation should be extended to the Chinese Premier, Hua Guofeng, to visit the UK from 30 October to 3 November, 1979.

The Prime Minister agrees that Premier Hua should be invited to pay a visit on these dates; she has also agreed to receive Premier Hua, to have talks with him and his colleagues, and to offer him hospitality. The way is therefore clear for a formal invitation to be extended to the Chinese. I should be grateful for further advice on the programme, insofar as it affects the Prime Minister's involvement, in due course.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

E. G. CARTLEDGE

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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