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PM's speech Hua folder (1)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

Prime Minister
These speeches are essentially
formalities. Apoc texts?

Yes out

24 October 1979

Yes nothing

24x

Dear Michael,

PREMIER HUA'S VISIT: SPEECHES

In accordance with our normal practice, there will be no formal speeches during Premier Hua's forthcoming visit, apart from those delivered by the Lord Mayor and Premier Hua at the Guildhall dinner on 1 November. However, I understand that the Prime Minister has agreed to make brief remarks on three occasions during the visit: a short speech of welcome in front of the press on Premier Hua's arrival at Heathrow, a toast at her welcoming dinner on 30 October, and a reply to Premier Hua's toast at the return dinner on 2 November.

The Chinese go in for formal speech-making rather more than we do. For example, dinners to welcome visiting Heads of Government in Peking are normally occasions for speeches which set out in some detail each Government's attitudes towards the international scene and bilateral relations and are widely reported in the Chinese media. The Chinese have readily agreed to fall in with our more informal practice, in this as in other respects. However, our Ambassador in Peking has advised that the impact of the visit in China itself will be greater if we can include a little more political content than usual in informal speeches and toasts delivered during the visit. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary hopes that this will be acceptable to the Prime Minister.

I accordingly enclose draft notes on which the Prime Minister could draw on these three occasions. In view of the difficulties of interpretation into Chinese, it would be helpful for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office official who will be interpreting for the Prime Minister if we could let him have her speaking notes in advance.

Yours ever
Rodney Lyne

(R M J Lyne)

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