



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 September, 1982.

*Dear Premier Zhao,*

I am aware that time was very short for our discussion of bilateral and commercial matters on 23 September. There was one important contract which I was unable to mention in the time available, namely the proposals made by the British consortium of Wimpey, Kleinwort Benson and Freeman Fox for the provision of modern container port facilities at Xiamen in Fujian Province. I understand that while the consortium has reached agreement with the provincial authorities, both are awaiting the approval of the State Planning Commission for the project.

If approved, this contract would be the biggest civil contract for British companies to sign with China for some years. The British Government has given the companies its full support and attaches great importance to this fine example of possible co-operation between our two countries. Speedy signature of the contract would give the greatest possible encouragement to the expansion of trade between our two countries, which as you pointed out is the object of our two Governments.

*Yours sincerely*

*Raymond Whelan*

His Excellency Premier Zhao Ziyang