

PRIME MINISTER

You agreed to send a message to China Daily for publication in its Supplement but you were unhappy with the style of the draft submitted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Attached is a revised version which uses much the same material as that submitted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, but which seeks a more simple and direct impact.

Are you content with the re-draft?

*Much better - agreed
ms. JF*

25 August 1982

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE CHINA DAILY SUPPLEMENT

I am delighted to have this opportunity to send greetings to the readers of the China Daily as I begin my visit to China. My visit is the first by a British Prime Minister in office to China. It is a symbol of the increasing links between our two countries. Co-operation in academic, scientific and educational work is increasing. The number of student exchanges between Britain and China has never been greater. We have a useful commercial relationship on which we must now build. We have much to offer each other from our long artistic and literary traditions.

I know I shall see many changes in China since my visit in 1977. I know, for example, that there has been a very large increase in the number of Chinese both young and old studying English. This can only increase the understanding between our countries and I am glad that we in Britain can help with China's efforts in this field. The assistance which the Thomson Organisation gives the China Daily is an example of this new close working relationship.

Britain and China hold similar positions on many international issues. We both see the dangers to the world from aggression and expansionism. By working together we can make an important contribution to world peace. We have made great progress but this is only a beginning. I hope that my visit will help to bring our two countries closer together.