

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE BANQUET IN PEKING

ON 19 DECEMBER, 1984

YOUR EXCELLENCY, PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG, / YOUR

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME

TO BE VISITING CHINA FOR THE THIRD TIME IN

SEVEN YEARS.

EACH VISIT HAS BEEN ALL TOO SHORT.

BUT EACH VISIT HERE ALSO MADE A DEEP

IMPRESSION ON ME.

THIS VISIT HAS A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE BECAUSE

IT MARKS AN HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT.

E. R.

THAT ACHIEVEMENT WAS OUR SIGNATURE THIS ~~MORNING~~ ^{AFTERNOON} OF THE

JOINT DECLARATION ON HONG KONG.

IN MY SPEECH AT THE SIGNATURE CEREMONY / I

DESCRIBED THE SIGNIFICANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO
~~THE~~
THE JOINT DECLARATION; OUR DETERMINATION TO

MAKE A SUCCESS OF IT; AND THE FIRM BASIS

WHICH IT LAYS DOWN / FOR THE GROWTH AND

PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG'S UNIQUE SOCIETY / INTO

THE MIDDLE OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

I EXPRESSED MY CONVICTION THAT THE PEOPLE OF

HONG KONG WOULD RISE TO THE CHALLENGE THAT

LIES AHEAD OF THEM.

THE WORLD CAN DRAW A LESSON FROM THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME

OF OUR JOINT ENTERPRISE:

- DETERMINED NEGOTIATION CAN SUCCEED WHERE
CONFRONTATION WOULD SURELY LEAD TO
DISASTER;

- GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP CAN OVERCOME
MISUNDERSTANDING;

- AN INTRACTABLE PROBLEM INHERITED FROM THE
PAST CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH AN IMAGINATIVE
APPROACH TO THE FUTURE;

- DIVISIONS IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE CAN BE
OVERCOME IN WAYS WHICH PRESERVE THE
AUTONOMY AND INDIVIDUALITY OF THE SOCIETIES
AFFECTED.

E R

THE JOINT DECLARATION IS OF THE HIGHEST SIGNIFICANCE TO
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.

NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN ON THE BASIS OF THE COMMON
AIM FOR HONG KONG, AGREED WHEN I MET
CHAIRMAN DENG ZIAOPING IN 1982.

THEY WERE SUSTAINED, DESPITE SOME DIFFICULT
MOMENTS, BY AN UNDERLYING SENSE THAT TRUST
AND UNDERSTANDING WERE GROWING BETWEEN US.

THEY CONCLUDE TODAY IN A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR
CONVICTION THAT BRITAIN AND CHINA CAN WORK
EVEN MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE -
FOR HONG KONG, FOR OUR TWO PEOPLES, FOR

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND PROSPERITY.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, GREAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO
SOCIETIES.

BUT WE ALSO HAVE MUCH IN COMMON.

NO CIVILISATION HAS A LONGER CONTINUOUS
HISTORY THAN CHINA'S.

IN BRITAIN WE TOO HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF
HISTORY.

BOTH OUR PEOPLE ARE TALENTED AND INVENTIVE.

THE INVENTION OF PRINTING IN CHINA IS SO
BASIC TO WORLD CIVILISATION THAT WE TAKE IT
FOR GRANTED.

AND THE PRODUCTIVE IMPULSE SET OFF BY

BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IS STILL
REVERBERATING AROUND THE WORLD.

PROGRESS, INDUSTRIAL OR SOCIAL, MEANS
CHANGE.

SUCH CHANGE IS NEVER EASY.

THE SENSE OF HISTORY AND CULTURAL DEPTH WE
BOTH ENJOY / HAS GIVEN OUR SOCIETIES A GREAT
SENSE OF PURPOSE.

WITH IT, WE CAN TACKLE CHANGE CONSTRUCTIVELY.

WE MUST PRESERVE THE BEST OF THE PAST IN
BUILDING THE FUTURE.

IN THAT SPIRIT WE WELCOME THE CHALLENGE OF

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND WILL MAKE SURE OUR PEOPLE
will enjoy
~~SHARE~~ ITS BENEFITS.

BOTH OUR COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED IN THE SEVEN YEARS

SINCE MY FIRST VISITS HERE.

AND CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.

IN CHINA, A NEW ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE AND
DYNAMISM HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN STEADY
ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS / AND
INCREASED OPENING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

IN AGRICULTURE, YOU HAVE HAD CONSECUTIVE
RECORD HARVESTS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS;
CHINA IS NOW THE WORLD'S FOREMOST GRAIN
PRODUCER.

THESE ARE THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE ~~PROCESS OF~~
REFORMS WHICH YOU HAVE INSTIGATED.

YOU ARE NOW EMBARKING ON AN AMBITIOUS

PROGRAMME OF INDUSTRIAL REFORM.

WE WATCH THIS PROCESS OF CHANGE WITH
ADMIRATION AND INTENSE INTEREST.

IN BRITAIN, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONTROLLING
INFLATION,) INCREASING INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY
AND OUTPUT) AND, MOST IMPORTANT, CHANGING
ATTITUDES.

WE TOO ARE CREATING A BRIGHTER AND MORE
CHALLENGING FUTURE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

THE MOST BASIC PRINCIPLE WHICH BOTH OUR
GOVERNMENTS ARE APPLYING IS COURAGE TO BE
OBJECTIVE IN ANALYSING PROBLEMS - AS YOU
WOULD PUT IT, TO SEEK ~~THE~~ TRUTH FROM FACTS.

WHEN I LAST CAME TO CHINA, THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE

OF HONG KONG WAS A PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED

BETWEEN US. *Here too, we had to face change.*

THE NEGOTIATIONS WHOSE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION

WE MARKED TODAY / *resolved this problem*
~~HAVE NOT ONLY ACHIEVED THIS~~

AND ~~HAVE~~ GIVEN SOLID GROUNDS FOR CONFIDENCE

TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, /

THEY HAVE ALSO BROUGHT BRITAIN AND CHINA

CLOSER TOGETHER.

THEY HAVE GIVEN FRESH IMPETUS TO THE EFFORTS

OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP STRONG AND

WIDE-RANGING RELATIONS BETWEEN US.

EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR STRENGTHENING

CULTURAL LINKS ALREADY EXIST.

AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

IS NOW GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE.

IN MANY OF THE AREAS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO
YOUR MODERNISATION PLANS / BRITAIN HAS A GREAT
DEAL OF EXPERIENCE.

I BELIEVE WE IN BRITAIN CAN MAKE AN ENORMOUS
CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING YOU BUILD A STRONG
AND PROSPEROUS CHINA.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO DOING SO.

STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY AT HOME REQUIRE PEACE AND
STABILITY ABROAD.

AS CHAIRMAN DENG HAS SAID: "LIKE THE REST
OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, WE REALLY NEED A
PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT".

E. R.

HOW TRUE THAT IS.

BOTH BRITAIN AND CHINA HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES
CAPABLE AND WILLING TO WORK FOR A MORE STABLE WORLD
FREE OF THE THREAT OF CONFLICT.

WITH OUR SHARED GOODWILL AND OUR CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE
TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, WE SHOULD NOW REDOUBLE OUR
EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE JOINTLY TO WORLD PEACE AND
PROSPERITY.

THE SPIRIT SHOULD BE THAT OF TENNYSON'S RINGING
CALL: "TO STRIVE, TO SEEK, TO FIND AND NOT TO YIELD".

MR. PREMIER, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR

ME TO RENEW THE FRIENDLY CONTACTS WE HAD ON MY
LAST VISIT.

WE HAVE HAD EXCELLENT TALKS AGAIN TODAY.

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO LONDON
NEXT YEAR.

FOR NOW, IN THANKING YOU FOR THIS MAGNIFICENT
BANQUET, MAY I USE WORDS OF A CHINESE SAYING TO
DESCRIBE THE GROWING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.

"WE HAVE BUILT WELL BUT THERE IS MORE TO DO."

IN THAT SPIRIT, I SHOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST:

TO THE HEALTH OF HIS EXCELLENCY

Lee SHIEN NIEN

PRESIDENT LEE SHIEN NIEN

TO THE HEALTH OF HIS EXCELLENCY PREMIER JOW

ZHOU ZUYANG

ZER YANG

TO THE HEALTH OF HIS EXCELLENCY VICE PREMIER

WAN LEE

WAN LEE

TO THE HEALTH OF HIS EXCELLENCY STATE COUNCILLOR

JEE PUNG FAY

JEE PUNG FAY

TO THE HEALTH OF HIS EXCELLENCY STATE COUNCILLOR

WOO SHWEAR CHIEN

AND FOREIGN MINISTER WOO SHWEAR CHIEN

TO THE HEALTH OF FRIENDS FROM HONG KONG

TO THE HEALTH OF ALL OTHER FRIENDS PRESENT THIS

EVENING

TO THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON HONG KONG

TO THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR

TWO COUNTRIES.