

Original China

①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 September 1982

Prime Minister

Content:

A. J. C. 7/9

AR 15/9  
p.c.

It may well be that  
do not have our  
Ambassadors - present at -  
Latter with Dep. ... Have  
we no competent  
interpreter? No - or  
in the F.O.?  
not.

Dear John,

Prime Minister's Visit to the Far East: Interpretation

I promised to let you have a note on arrangements for interpretation at the major meetings to be held in Tokyo and Peking during the Prime Minister's forthcoming tour.

Both the Japanese and Chinese Governments will provide interpreters for all formal occasions. We are confident that they will be of high calibre (beyond anything which we could provide from our own resources) and believe that every conversation should be translated faithfully. However senior members of the Embassies who are fluent in the two languages, including in both cases the Ambassadors, will be present at all conversations and will not hesitate to intervene if they detect any inaccuracy on the part of the interpreter.

On the specific point you raised, I am assured that Deng Xiaoping does not speak any particularly inaccessible brand of Chinese; there should be no great difficulty for our Embassy staff in understanding him.

Robin Butler  
yours to me  
about this.

A. J. C. 7/9.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street