



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 February 1985

Dear Charles,

China: Visit by Premier Zhao Ziyang

Since the Prime Minister returned from China in December, we have been seeking to confirm with the Chinese the dates for Premier Zhao Ziyang's forthcoming visit. It now looks likely that the Chinese will shortly propose formally a visit from 3-7 June.

There has been some delay in going firm as Premier Zhao is also planning to visit the Federal Republic of Germany and one other, so far undisclosed, country. We have now heard from Bonn that the FRG visit will be from 8-15 June (including two days' holiday). The Chinese have indicated, but not yet officially confirmed, that 3-7 June (Monday-Friday) in Britain would best suit them.

It would allow a fuller programme during the working week, and improve the comparison with the length of the FRG visit, if his arrival could be on 2 June and his departure on 8 June. If the Prime Minister agrees, we would therefore propose to instruct our Embassy in Peking to tell the Chinese that 3-7 June is acceptable but to suggest arrival on Sunday 2 June and departure on Saturday 8 June in order to ensure that the full working week of 3-7 June is available for official engagements.

Yes evs.

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

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