

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF ZHAO ZIYANG

The attached letter asks whether we could pull out all the stops for Zhao Ziyang, in particular:

- (a) welcoming ceremony in the FCO courtyard on the morning of 3 June.
- (b) farewell call on him at Claridges on Saturday 8 June. It is not clear from the diary whether you will be here or at Chequers that day. If the latter, the call might be on the Friday afternoon.
- (c) a second session of talks lasting one hour on 6 June.

You are of course already giving a dinner for him and attending his return dinner.

This is more than you normally do, but well worth it in this case.

Agree?

Yes
not. C.D.P.

(CHARLES POWELL)

19 April 1985



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 April 1985

*Dear Charles,*Visit by Premier Zhao Ziyang

Arrangements are in hand for the important visit by the Chinese Premier, Zhao Ziyang, for which we have now agreed the dates of 2-8 June. A number of points have arisen concerning the Prime Minister's participation in the programme, on which it would be helpful to have early decisions.

We expect the public focus to be firmly on economic cooperation and opportunities for trade; for the first time at this level in recent years, Hong Kong considerations should not inhibit this. Premier Zhao will be the most senior Chinese visitor to Britain since Chinese Communist Party Chairman (and concurrently Premier) Hua Guofeng in 1979. But this visit will offer more opportunities. Premier Zhao will probably be more willing than Chairman Hua to engage in substantive discussion and to take decisions; we know that the Chinese themselves will be hoping for practical manifestations of closer relations; and commercial potential for Britain in China remains considerable, particularly following Lord Young's successful visit to China in March. It will be important to keep up the momentum.

Ceremonial

The Chinese are extraordinarily protocol-conscious and will pay close attention to the level and nature of the formalities. This applies not only to Premier Zhao himself, but also to the Chinese people generally, whose attention will be focussed sharply on Britain by the Chinese media. Chinese expectations, conditioned by the unprecedented reception given last year to the Prime Minister in Peking, will be high. You will recall that the Prime Minister was met and seen off at Peking airport by the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian, and that Premier Zhao presided over a formal welcoming ceremony the morning after arrival, and paid a farewell call at the guest house before departure.

/ For this visit, ...



For this visit, the Foreign Secretary has agreed to meet Premier Zhao on arrival. But the Chinese have asked, and the Ambassador in Peking has recommended, that the Prime Minister should either meet Premier Zhao herself, or host a formal welcoming ceremony in London. The least time-consuming option would be a guard of honour in the FCO courtyard. The Foreign Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister should agree to this. There is some flexibility on timing. The best time would seem to be on the morning of 3 June, as the first item on the official programme; or perhaps immediately before the talks to be held at 1600 hrs on 3 June.

Another personal touch which would be greatly appreciated by the Chinese, if the Prime Minister could find time for it, would be a very brief farewell call at Claridges on Saturday 8 June. Although this is not as important as the welcoming ceremony, it would reciprocate Premier Zhao's farewell call on the Prime Minister; and the Chinese would see, and appreciate, the gesture as a mark of special regard, as Zhao's own similar gesture was intended to be. It would contribute much to making the right impression on Premier Zhao, just before he leaves for West Germany (whose exports to China are about four times those of the UK).

Talks

In your letter of 8 February, you proposed that formal talks take place from 1600 - 1800 hrs on 3 June, with a possibility if necessary of a further round on the morning of 5 June. We see a strong case for a second session, though this need not necessarily be for a full two hours. However, 5 June would now be difficult. I enclose a copy of the programme as it currently stands. As you see, it is at present planned that Premier Zhao should be out of London from the afternoon of 4 June to the morning of 6 June, and we consider it important that he should have a substantial visit to some other part of the UK (we are exploring various possibilities); there is no other suitable opportunity for this, given the fixed points in the programme.

The amount of ground to be covered is relevant. A proposed agenda has not yet been put to the Chinese. However, if the Prime Minister agrees, the following subjects could usefully be addressed:

- (a) Future of Hong Kong (although it is too early to say which aspects);

/ (b) ...



- (b) **Bilateral political questions** (particularly visits by The Queen, and Hu Yaobang);
- (c) International questions (East-West relations, including SDI; Sino/Soviet relations; Indo-China; South Asia; Korea);
- (d) Trade and Economic Cooperation (Trade policy issues; specific projects).

They could not be encompassed in a two-hour meeting (over half of which would be taken up with interpretation).

I should therefore be grateful if you could consider whether the Prime Minister could make available another time while Premier Zhao is in London for further talks. **One hour would suffice**; if the Prime Minister were available, **an appropriate time might be before the return dinner on 6 June**. We would suggest that items (a) - (c) be covered on 3 June. This would leave the second session free to consider trade, at a time when Premier Zhao will already have seen some of our economic and industrial achievements at first hand.

Your ever,
Len Appleyard
(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

VISIT BY PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG

Outline Programme

Sunday 2 June		Arrive Heathrow (met by Sir G Howe)
Monday 3 June		Welcoming ceremony(?)
	1600-1800	Talks at 10 Downing St
	Evening	Welcoming dinner at 10 Downing St
Tuesday 4 June	Lunch	at Mansion House, hosted by Lord Mayor of London
	PM	depart for provincial tour (Scotland?)
Wednesday 5 June		Out of London
Thursday 6 June	AM	Return to London
	Lunch	at Buckingham Palace
	Evening	Return dinner
Friday 7 June		Day trip outside London (Cambridge?)
Saturday 8 June		Depart Heathrow for Federal Republic of Germany

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