



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 March 1985

Prime Minister  
There is just  
15 minutes for  
this.

CDP

11/3.

Dear Charles,

Farewell Call by Chinese Ambassador

The Chinese Ambassador, Chen Zhaoyuan, is paying a farewell call on the Prime Minister on Tuesday 12 March at 0930. He will be accompanied by his Private Secretary Zhang Xinsen (who will interpret).

Mr Chen has been here just under two years. He has been a jovial but insubstantial Ambassador. He is ostensibly being withdrawn in the wake of new regulations in the Chinese MFA requiring Ambassadors to retire at 60 (he is 66). But his successor, Mr Hu Dingyi, previously Minister in the Washington Embassy, is already 63. There have been rumours that Mr Chen is regarded in Peking as insufficiently dynamic to take full advantage of the improvement in bilateral relations following the agreement on Hong Kong.

During the call, we suggest that the Prime Minister could note that Mr Chen has presided over an exceptional period in bilateral relations. The prospects for the future have never been brighter. The Prime Minister may wish to emphasise the significance of the Hong Kong agreement. The friendly relations existing between Britain and China have enabled us together to reach a settlement to the Hong Kong question which meets our respective political requirements as well as the interests of the people of Hong Kong. We are committed to working closely with China to implement the agreement which we believe provides a basis for greater cooperation and even more friendly relations between our two countries.

The Prime Minister could then point to the excellent opportunities for rapid expansion in relations, in particular in trade, and to the importance of the visit by Lord Young (which has gone well, despite misleading publicity about allegedly better treatment accorded to a Japanese delegation in China at the same time). A joint venture agreement with Aveling Barford of Grantham (contract value £60m) and Memoranda of Understanding with Rolls Royce and Cable and Wireless have been signed. The Prime Minister could express the hope that the visit will lead to further specific contracts for the companies involved. The Ambassador may

/suggest





suggest that British prices are often too high; the Prime Minister could refer to British manufacturers' unrivalled reputation for quality and reliability, and the determination of our firms to compete vigorously in the Chinese market (demonstrated during Lord Young's visit).

The Prime Minister could also welcome the planned visit in June by Premier Zhao Ziyang and plans for visits this year by the Chinese Ministers for Environment, Culture, Education, Textiles and Agriculture. All indicate growing substance to our relations and intensification of contacts across wide range of fields. The importance we attach to relations with China will be symbolised by the State Visit by HM The Queen probably in late 1986.

/ I enclose a biographical note on Mr Chen.

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street





BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: MR CHEN ZHAOYUAN

Born 1918 in Guangdong province Mr Chen had a university education. He became a member of the West European and African Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1951. His Ambassadorial career began in 1971 in Burma, followed by postings to Spain and India (which he knows very well). In 1980 he was appointed Director of the 2nd Asian Department in the MFA. Ambassador to the UK since May 1983.

Mr Chen is married with three children - two sons and one daughter. He has a good command of English; his wife almost none.



10 DOWNING STREET

MR. POWELL

Chinese Ambassador

The Chinese Ambassador will be accompanied by a interpreter tomorrow morning Mr. Zhong Xinsen.

*Sue*

11 March 1985



CC/PC ①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 January, 1985

Prime Minister  
We mustn't allow  
farewell calls to become  
a habit. But there does  
seem to be a strong case  
for Charles, for the Chinese.

Agree to see him  
for 15 minutes?

Chinese Ambassador: Farewell Call

The Chinese Ambassador, Mr Chen Zhaoyuan, expects to leave London at the end of his tour in late March. Sir Geoffrey Howe will be hosting a farewell lunch. The Ambassador has also asked whether it would be possible for him to make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister.

CDP  
S/C  
Yes  
mt

We realise that it is unusual for the Prime Minister to receive departing Ambassadors. However, Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that, if the Prime Minister has time, there are good grounds for making an exception in this case. Ambassador Chen has been here during a period of remarkable growth in UK-China relations, including of course the negotiation and signature of the Joint Declaration on Hong Kong. A very brief call would demonstrate clearly to the Chinese the importance we attach to the Joint Declaration and to relations generally, as well as the Prime Minister's close personal interest. A further point is that, when Sir Percy Cradock left Peking in December 1983, he was, unusually, received by Premier Zhao Ziyang. It would be helpful if we could reciprocate this gesture.

I should, therefore, be grateful if you could seek the Prime Minister's agreement in principle to the request. If this is forthcoming, we shall ask the Chinese Embassy to arrange an appointment through the FCO, and shall submit briefing as necessary in due course.

Yours ever,  
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



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31 JAN 1985



