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CPA

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 March 1985

Dear General Secretary,

Thank you for your kind letter of 25 February. I agree entirely about the prospects for developing cooperation between our two countries. Lord Young's mission has been an important step in this direction, and he has kept me informed of its progress. I am glad that it has gone so well, and am grateful for the excellent arrangements which were made. I am also looking forward very much to seeing Premier Zhao Ziyang in Britain in June.

I also agree strongly with what you say about the importance of personal meetings between leaders, and am delighted that you would like to visit Britain yourself. As I said when we met on 19 December, we shall give you a very warm welcome. If you agree, we might think in terms of dates at the end of this year or perhaps the Spring of 1986, when the weather makes a visit more pleasant. We might consider precise dates rather nearer the time.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Hu Yaobang

VC



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

I have amended the last two sentences of the letter. But I do not think we should be too specific on dates yet. A visit next Spring would fit neatly between Zhaio Ziyang in June this year, and The Queen in China in October 1986.

"Dear General Secretary".

C.D.P.

15 March 1985

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 March 1985

Dear Charles,

China: Letter from Hu Yaobang

Our Embassy in Peking have forwarded by telegram the text of a letter dated 25 February to the Prime Minister from Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. (The original will be passed via the Chinese Embassy.) I enclose a copy, together with the Prime Minister's letter of 24 December, to which it is a reply.

The main purpose of Hu's letter appears to be to accept in principle the invitation to visit Britain which the Prime Minister originally extended in Peking on 19 December 1984. Hu's response then was obscure: he said he looked forward to making a visit but that his face was red because he was only the Party General Secretary. Firm acceptance now presumably follows careful consideration by Chinese leaders of what will be an important visit. To date, the only non-communist country which Hu has visited in his present capacity is Japan, although he has now accepted invitations to visit the USA, Australia, New Zealand and France. The timing will be important, particularly in relation to the State Visit to China by The Queen in the second half of next year; but it would be more appropriate to consider this after Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit to Britain.

I enclose a self-explanatory reply which the Prime Minister may wish to send to Hu Yaobang.

Yours ever,  
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Mr Hu Yaobang

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your kind letter of 25 February. I agree entirely about the prospects for developing cooperation between our two countries. Lord Young's mission has been an important step in this direction, and I have been following its progress closely. I am glad that it has gone so well and grateful for the excellent arrangements which were made. I am also looking forward very much to seeing Premier Zhao Ziyang in Britain in June.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 Lord Young has kept me informed of its progress.  
 I have been following its progress closely.  
 I am grateful

CAVEAT.....

I also agree strongly with what you say about the importance of personal meetings between leaders and am delighted that you would like to visit Britain yourself. As I said when we met on 19 December, we will give you a very warm welcome. I suggest that we consider the timing once Premier Zhao has completed his visit.

*Handwritten signature:* CH.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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12 MAR 1985

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GRS 350

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FM PEKING 010840Z MAR 85  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 260 OF 1 MARCH.  
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

MIPT: LETTER FROM HU YAOBANG TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. DURING THOMSON'S CALL THIS AFTERNOON ON JIANG ENZHU, JIANG REFERRED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF THANKS TO HU YAOBANG OF 24 DECEMBER. HE SAID THAT HU HAD WRITTEN A LETTER OF REPLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE SIGNED ORIGINAL OF WHICH WOULD BE FORWARDED THROUGH THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN LONDON. JIANG THEN HANDED OVER A COPY OF HU'S LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY TOGETHER WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINS:

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

I HAVE RECEIVED WITH PLEASURE YOUR LETTER OF 24 DECEMBER 1984, WHICH BROUGHT TO MY MIND OUR MOST PLEASANT MEETING IN BEIJING. SHORT AS IT WAS, THE MEETING LEFT WITH ME AN UNFORGETTABLE IMPRESSION OF YOUR KEEN INSIGHT AND HIGH DEDICATION TO WORK.

THE SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF THE HONG KONG QUESTION HAS OPENED UP NEW PROSPECTS FOR THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN. AS I POINTED OUT DURING OUR MEETING, THERE IS INDEED A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I BELIEVE THE VISIT TO CHINA BY THE BRITISH TRADE MISSION HEADED BY LORD YOUNG WILL MAKE A NEW CONTRIBUTION TO THIS END.

IT HAS BEEN MY CONVICTION THAT MEETINGS BETWEEN LEADERS ARE HIGHLY USEFUL TO ENHANCING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP. I HOPE THAT AFTER SOME TIME ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR ME TO VISIT YOUR COUNTRY SO THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO GREET AND LEARN FROM THE BRITISH PEOPLE, SEE WHAT BRITAIN HAS ACHIEVED IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND DRAW UPON YOUR EXPERIENCE, THUS HELPING PROMOTE THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES FOR LONG YEARS TO COME.

WITH BEST WISHES,

YOURS SINCERELY

HU YAOBANG

ENDS

EVANS

LIMITED  
FED  
PROTOCOL D  
NEWS D  
MR WILSON

CONFIDENTIAL