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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Godwin
Can you find
1/2 hour in the
next 3 1/2 weeks please
CDP

25 April 1985

CDP
1745-1815
TW 23 May
CR
25/4

Dear Charles

Chinese Ambassador: Courtesy Call

The new Chinese Ambassador, Mr Hu Dingyi, assumed his functions on 15 April. During an initial call on Sir Geoffrey Howe the Ambassador said that he hoped it would be possible to pay an early call on the Prime Minister.

Sir Geoffrey would not want to recommend that the Prime Minister should see arriving Ambassadors except in the case of very close allies and the occasional exceptional case.

He considers that the Chinese Ambassador is one such case. UK/China relations have never been more substantial. Mr Hu's appointment reflects this. He is highly regarded by his Foreign Ministry and his posting to London was accelerated to allow him to oversee preparations for the Chinese Premier's visit in June.

A very brief call on the Prime Minister would underline the importance the Prime Minister attaches personally to the further development of relations. It would also reinforce the personal contact to which the Chinese attach importance: Mr Hu met the Prime Minister when she was Secretary of State for Education, during his last posting to Britain as Cultural Counsellor. Additionally, the Chinese Premier received our Ambassador in Peking shortly after his arrival. An early call by Mr Hu would allow the Prime Minister to reciprocate this gesture, which would be appreciated by the Chinese. Sir Geoffrey has already had a useful first talk with him.

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would agree to a brief courtesy call.

Y ew,

Peter Ricketts

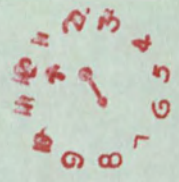
(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing Street

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK

24 APR 1965



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 April 1985

Chinese Ambassador: Courtesy Call

Thank you for your letter of 25 April.

I am sure that the Prime Minister would be happy to see Mr. Hu Dingyi for a brief courtesy call. But please encourage him not to advertise this, or we shall face intolerable problems with others.

Ball I suggest 1745 on Thursday 23 May. This will still be before Zhao Ziyang's visit.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Mr Charles

Parrell

No. 10 *am*

**OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO**

**With the compliments of the
Principal Private Secretary**

for your information

leigh Lewis

21/3

**Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone 01 233 3299**



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 3299

From the Minister without Portfolio
The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham

Lord King of Wartnaby
Chairman
Babcock International plc
Cleveland House
St James's Square
LONDON SW1Y 4LN

21 March 1985

The Duke,

Now that the dust has settled from our trip to China I thought I should write to thank you for the very valuable contribution which you made to the success of our mission. I hope that, like me, you found the trip profitable and rewarding. Incidentally we shall be circulating very shortly notes of the main meetings which were held in China.

Clearly what is important now is that we should follow up the mission as effectively as possible. I am sure that you already have this well in hand but I would find it particularly helpful if you could let me have a brief report (which I will copy to Paul Channon) at monthly intervals on the progress you are making. Perhaps the first of these reports could reach me by around the middle of April. It would be particularly useful if these reports could identify any areas in which the Embassy or the Department of Trade and Industry could be of particular assistance. I would also hope that we might be able to get together in about six months time to take stock of the position then.

I should also add that the Prime Minister, to whom I have now reported on our trip, is keen to see continuing contacts between the members of the mission and the Chinese Government. To this end she hopes that it will be possible to arrange for members to meet the new Chinese Ambassador in due course and to associate them in some way with the visit later this year by Premier Zhao Ziyang. I would expect Downing Street to be in touch with you about this in due course.

I am writing in similar terms to the other members of our mission.

Lord Young