

MR POWELL

PRIME MINISTER

The three will be joined by two local Chinese correspondents, who will have non-speaking parts! C.D.P. 7/5

①

You agreed to give a 30-minute interview to three senior Chinese journalists tomorrow, Wednesday, 8 May, at 2.30 pm.

The three are: Mr Jiang Yuanchun, who is Head of the International News Department of the People's Daily; Mr Sun Wenfang, Deputy Director of the International Department of the Guangming Daily (as their London correspondent, 1976-83, he interviewed you prior to your 1982 visit to China); and Mr Pan Muping, correspondent on International Affairs.

They are visiting Britain, under COI auspices, to research articles which will appear in the Chinese press shortly before Premier Zhao's visit (2-8 June), which we will be announcing tomorrow morning. The three will also be visiting the Netherlands and West Germany, which are also on Premier Zhao's itinerary.

They have submitted three main areas of questioning:

- The international situation today, and your predictions for changes in the world's political and economic structure.
- The economic and political scene in the United Kingdom and our role in the world today and in the future.
- Sino-British relations.

You require no briefing on the first two areas of questioning but I am attaching bull points on question three and a background note prepared by the FCO.

The Chinese have asked whether a photographer may be present for the start of the interview.

In view of the numbers, agree to use White Room, and to  
photographer being present?

*Yes*

*Iain Murray*

IAIN R MURRAY  
PRESS OFFICE

7 May 1985



BULL POINTS FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH CHINESE JOURNALISTS:  
2.30 PM, 8 MAY

Question 1

Being one of the world's outstanding Heads of State, will you please make some comment on the current international situation and your predictions on changes in the world's political and economic structure?

[I suggest that you focus on outcome of Bonn Economic Summit: East/West relations: the development of the European Community: and your impressions of SE Asia].

Question 2

Would you please give us an outline of the United Kingdom's political and economic situation and prospects for development, as well as the role that the United Kingdom will play in world affairs in the future?

Question 3

Since you have made a great contribution to the settlement between China and the United Kingdom on the Hong Kong question, which considerably helped the enhancement of Sino-British friendship and cooperation, would you please make some assessment and express your hopes on the outlook for Sino-British relations?

Answer to 3

Joint Declaration on Hong Kong landmark in the life of Hong Kong, in Anglo-Chinese relations and the history of international diplomacy. Firm basis for confidence up to and after 1997. Example to other countries of way in which difficult international problems can be resolved. Increased our mutual understanding and trust. Convinced that we have laid the foundations for even richer relationship.

Excellent prospects for greater trade and economic cooperation. UK expertise in Chinese priority sectors: energy, transport, telecommunications. More high level political contacts. Lord Young. Premier Zhao. Historic State Visit by HM The Queen to China agreed (dates not yet fixed).

/Vitality



Vitality of Chinese and UK economies. Struck by observation in the People's Daily on 29 March 1984: "The way to govern a country is first to enrich the people". That came from the "Records of the Historian" by Sima Qian (145-86BC). China and Britain are building their future strength on the best of the past and the energy and inventiveness of the present.



## BACKGROUND

3. Sino-British Relations

i) Trade flow in absolute terms (1984 UK exports to China £317m, imports £278m; UK market share little over 1%). But developing rapidly. Chinese have indicated willingness to give political impetus to UK commercial efforts within general aim of increasing W Europe's market share. Good recent indications of results: Chinese have agreed in principle to buy 10 BAe146 aircraft. GEC's Guangdong Nuclear negotiations going well.

ii) High level visits also increasing. Lord young's successful mission with 10 British companies from 28 February - 9 March. Chairman of Lloyd's at present in China. Premier Zhao's visit (2-8 June) will be most senior since Premier Hua's in 1979. Visits also expected this year by Chinese Ministers for Culture, Environment, Agriculture and possibly Energy. And next year possible visit by Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang. Mr Walker and Mr Jopling, Mr Ridley and Mr Luce likely to visit China later this year.

iii) Also growing Governmental framework. Consular and Double Taxation Agreements signed last year. Consulate-General opened in Shanghai in February. Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement currently under negotiation. We hope for signature during Zhao's visit.



10 DOWNING STREET

Chate Powell. *CP*

FCO (Sandra Phillips) say to  
say two Chinese journalists working  
in London (from People's Daily  
and Guan Guoing) have asked if  
they can be present at the PM's  
meeting with the 3 Chinese journalists  
(banned then) on 8 May.

Presumably no objections?

MAAT 30/4



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

CEPC  
NBPM  
CDP  
29k.

Len Appleyard, Esq.,  
Private Secretary to the Secretary  
of State,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
London, S.W.1.

26th April, 1985

Dear Len

**CHINA: VISIT BY PREMIER ZHAO**

Lord Young has seen your letter to Charles Powell of 25th April and his reply of the 26th. *Attached*

The Minister would be pleased to see the journalists and I have arranged through Ian Orr in your Far Eastern Department, who has been in touch with me about this, for an interview to take place at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 7th May.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (No. 10).

*Yours ever*

*Leigh*

Leigh Lewis  
Private Secretary

*Attached.*

9 APR 1965

