



(Translation)

Speech by Premier Zhao Ziyang
at the Welcoming Dinner Given by
Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

3 June 1985

Respected Prime Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is not my first visit to your country. But now I come at the invitation of Mrs. Thatcher at the beginning of a new historical stage in the Sino-British relations. I am most pleased to meet again Mrs. Thatcher and other friends to look into and plan the future of Sino-British relations. I would like to take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our cordial greetings to the British Government and people.

I have come with the desire of increasing friendship, strengthening

cooperation and promoting world peace. This afternoon I had a fruitful discussion with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, which strengthened my confidence that my visit will be a complete success.

The United Kingdom is a country with a long history. The industrial revolution that began in Britain speeded up the progress of human society. The British culture with its distinctive features has enriched world civilization. During World War II, the British people made a significant contribution to the victory over fascism. Today, the United Kingdom, which is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and a member of the European Communities, shoulders a major responsibility and exerts a positive influence in maintaining peace in Europe and the world and promoting international

economic cooperation.

There is a long history of contacts and a traditional friendship between the Chinese and British peoples. Although our two countries are far apart geographically and have different social systems and cultural traditions, there is no conflict of fundamental interests between us, rather we share many interests in the endeavour for a world of prosperity and peace. Lasting and stable friendly relations and cooperation between China and the United Kingdom will be in the interests of the two peoples and also of world peace and stability. The Chinese Government always attaches great importance to Sino-British relations, and one of its firm policies is ceaselessly to consolidate and develop these relations.

The Hongkong question, which was a legacy of the past, has been

settled satisfactorily through friendly negotiations between the Chinese and British Governments. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher braved the fatigue of a long journey and visited China twice, in 1982 and 1984. The Chinese people deeply appreciate her sagacity and statesmanship, which played an important part in making our negotiations a success. Not long ago, our two sides completed the procedures of ratification of the Joint Declaration and exchanged the instruments of ratification, thus putting our agreement in force. We believe that our two Governments will go on treating each other with sincerity and working in close cooperation in faithfully carrying out all the provisions of the Joint Declaration, thus ensure smooth implementation of the agreement and maintenance of the stability and prosperity of Hongkong.

'settled satisfactorily through friendly negotiations between the Chinese and British Governments. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher braved the fatigue of a long journey and visited China twice, in 1982 and 1984. The Chinese people deeply appreciate her sagacity and statesmanship, which played an important part in making our negotiations a success. Not long ago, our two sides completed the procedures of ratification of the Joint Declaration and exchanged the instruments of ratification, thus putting our Joint Declaration in force. We believe that our two Governments will go on treating each other with sincerity and working in close cooperation in faithfully carrying out all the provisions of the Joint Declaration, and thus ensure smooth implementation of the Joint Declaration and maintenance of the stability and prosperity of Hongkong.

Respected Prime Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Forty years have passed since the Second World War which played havoc among the people of many countries. No calamity of such dimensions has occurred since then, but one cannot say that the danger of a great war has been eliminated in the world of today. An enduring international peace is essential for the economic growth of the world's people and also indispensable for the Chinese people's modernization effort. In international affairs, the Chinese Government pursues an independent foreign policy of peace, with the basic purposes of opposing hegemonism and maintaining world peace. China will not submit to the will of any big power or group of powers or enter in an alliance or strategic

relations with it. China strives to develop relations with all other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence and will not let her relations with other countries, whether close or estranged, hinge on their social systems and ideologies, whether similar or not. China stands for disarmament and complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. China is against the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, and the extension of this race to the outer space. China is a force defending peace and averting war, and so is a united and strong Europe. We firmly believe that the international tension can be eased and world peace can be

maintained with the people of all countries making concerted efforts.

Respected Prime Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the settlement of the question of Hongkong a new page is opened in the annals of Sino-British relations. We are ready to increase our contacts, consultations and cooperation with the British Government and British personages of various circles. We will exert ourselves to develop our economic and technological cooperation and trade with Britain to further substantiate our good political relations with Britain. We would also like to increase cultural and other exchanges with Britain. The successful visit to China paid not long ago by the British trade delegation headed by Minister without Portfolio Lord Young shows that there

are great potentials for more economic and technical cooperation to be tapped through joint efforts on the basis of mutual benefit and reciprocity. In the interest of the economic prosperity of both countries and of world peace, we are determined to work together with the British Government and people to carry the existing Sino-British friendly relations and cooperation to a higher level.

Before concluding my speech, I want to express my heartfelt thanks once again to Mrs. Thatcher for her generous hospitality and to the British Government and people for their warm reception.

Now, I invite you to join me in a toast,

to the continuous development of the Sino-British friendly relations

and cooperation,

to the prosperity of the United Kingdom and the well-being of its people,

to the health of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,

to the health of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Mr. Denis Thatcher, and

to the health of ladies and gentlemen present here!

