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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State  
Richard Luce MP

7 June 1985

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12/6.

Dear Tony,

will request  
if req.

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to the Prime Minister about the Council of Chinese Organisations' wish that Manchester be included in the Premier's itinerary. As Minister with responsibility for the Far East, I am replying.

I am fully aware, and appreciative of the considerable contribution which Manchester and its Chinese community have made, and are continuing to make to the growth in contacts between Britain and China.

However, as you will appreciate, there have been many justifiable claims for the Premier's attention during his visit. The number far exceeds the time available. In planning the programme these claims have been considered in conjunction with the wishes expressed by the Premier and the Chinese authorities. I regret that it was not possible to include Manchester on this occasion. Inevitably much of the Premier's time has been spent in London. There was a short visit to Scotland and today he will visit Cambridge. It was simply impossible to incorporate another regional visit.

I will certainly bear in mind Manchester's claims for inclusion in future high-level visits from China. In view of our present excellent bilateral relations I am confident that there will be many such visits in the years ahead.

I mentioned Manchester's interest to the Chinese Foreign Minister.

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✓  
R. Luce

Tony Lloyd Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

