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of Press



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 August 1982

Prime Minister:

Agree to send message
to China Daily as drafted?

Dear Tim,

JH

24/8

China Daily: Message from the Prime Minister

To mark the occasion of the Prime Minister's visit to China the Peking English-language newspaper the "China Daily" is producing a special 8-page supplement on Anglo/Chinese relations and Britain. Major British firms are placing advertisements in the supplement and through the Embassy we are contributing half of the editorial material, mainly from COI sources.

The "China Daily" would welcome a short message from the Prime Minister at the beginning of the supplement. The French Prime Minister contributed a message to a supplement on France last month. We very much hope that the Prime Minister will feel able to respond to this request. I attach a draft text which has been cleared with the Embassy in Peking. The deadline for copy is 10 September but it would be useful to have your decision as soon as possible so that we can stimulate a corresponding message from the Chinese Premier.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

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It could be written
more simply - and would
then have more impact.

DSR 11C

CHINA DAILY SUPPLEMENT: DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

I am delighted to have this opportunity to send greetings to the readers of the China Daily as I begin my visit to China. My visit is the first by a British Prime Minister in office to China. It is an ^a appropriate symbol of the ~~growing~~ ^{increasing} ~~links~~ ^{links} ~~steady growth in contacts~~ between our two countries. ~~exchanges have been developing particularly rapidly in recent years.~~ ^{increased} ~~We have expanded co-operation in academic, scientific and educational work:~~ ^{is increasing.} ~~never before have there~~ ^{The number of} ~~been so many student exchanges between Britain and China~~ ^{has never been greater.} We have a useful commercial relationship on which we must build. We have much to offer each other, ~~and much to learn,~~ from our long artistic and literary traditions.

~~These links in turn reflect the very similar positions~~ ^{with similar positions} that Britain and China have on many international issues. We both see the dangers to the world from aggression and expansion ^{ism,} and I am confident that ^{by} working together we can make an important contribution to world peace.

~~I have been told that I shall see many changes in China since~~ ^{I know} ~~my previous visit~~ ^{since} ~~in 1977, when I was leader of the~~ ^{my visit in 1977} ~~British Opposition.~~ ^{I know, for example that there has been} I am particularly struck by the very ^{an example,} ~~large increase in the number of Chinese, both young and old,~~ ^{increase in the number of Chinese} studying English. ~~The study of foreign languages is very~~ ^{This can only bring our two countries} ~~important to international understanding, and we in Britain~~ ^{closer together and I am glad we can help with your} are glad to be able to ~~contribute to China's efforts in this~~ ^{help} ~~field.~~ ^{China's efforts in this} ~~The advice and expertise which the Thomson Foundation~~ ^{assistance} ~~is glad to be able to give China Daily is a good example~~ ^{gives the} of this new close working relationship. [We have made great progress. But this is only a beginning. Our ~~friendship~~ ^{is} ~~I hope that my visit will help us to~~ ^{bring our two countries closer together.}

friendship, based on mutual understanding and co-operation
in many fields, will certainly grow closer and warmer in the
years ahead, and I hope that ^{My} visit will contribute to ^{→ is part of}
this process.