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SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE J.A. WALDING, LEADER
OF THE N.Z. TRADE MISSION TO CHINA, AT A BANQUET
GIVEN BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON FRIDAY,
5 OCTOBER 1973

Mr Minister and distinguished guests,

All members of the New Zealand Trade Mission to China join me in thanking you for the friendly reception you have given us, and for the good wishes you have expressed tonight. Those of us who have been to China before are delighted to be back and to be able to renew old associations. Those who are newcomers have been impressed by the warmth of the welcome you have given us. We are all looking forward to seeing more of your great country and its people.

We come to China as representatives of the Government and people of New Zealand, and especially of its trading community. We bear greetings and good wishes from them to the people of China, and to its leaders. My Prime Minister the Right Honourable Norman Kirk, has asked me to convey his personal greetings to Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Premier Chou En-lai, and all their colleagues.

Contacts between China and New Zealand have increased rapidly in the past ten months. One of the first actions taken by the Government on which I have the honour to serve was to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, which we did on 22 December 1972. In March I led the first Ministerial Mission from New Zealand ever to visit China. Since then a Chinese Embassy has been set up in Wellington, and a New Zealand Embassy in Peking. Friendship groups from each country have been to the other and travelled widely. And most important of all, we have

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had the pleasure of welcoming a Chinese Trade Delegation led by you, Sir, the first Minister of your Government to come to our country.

The present New Zealand Trade Mission is here to carry on the good work. We hope to strengthen the growing ties between China and New Zealand by developing contacts between the trading communities in the two countries. We hope to explore in more detail the possibilities for increased trade that have emerged from earlier discussions, with a view to stimulating the actual flow of goods between us. And we hope to conclude a formal Trade Agreement that will provide a basis for closer cooperation in this field.

Our Mission includes representatives of most of the principal trading organizations in New Zealand. Many of them are concerned with pastoral products, such as wool, tallow, hides and skins, and milk powder. Others are concerned with forest products - timber, pulp and paper. Others again are concerned with manufactured products, which are becoming increasingly important in our economy.

We are naturally interested in selling what we produce. Overseas trade is very important to New Zealand. We have large and valuable markets in Western Europe, North America, Japan and Australia. But we are determined to be ^{politically and economically} independent and we do not like to depend too heavily on any one country or group of countries. We are anxious to develop new markets - especially markets that will be reliable in the longer term, markets that will help us to maintain our independence.

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But we ^{know} ~~believe~~ that trade must be a two-way street.

We are interested in increasing our imports as well as our exports - in buying from other countries what they produce efficiently as well as in selling to them what we produce. Many of the members of our Mission are interested in buying as well as in selling, and they are looking forward to having concrete discussions on both aspects of our trade.

We also believe that trade is not an end in itself. We see it as a means of making the fullest use of the resources of different countries, improving the living conditions of their peoples, and strengthening ties between them. We believe that these wider goals must be kept constantly in mind in considering trade questions.

For this reason we are keen to develop other aspects of the relationship between China and New Zealand along with trade. We are looking forward to welcoming a Chinese acrobatic team to our country in November, and we hope before long to be able to send some cultural and sporting groups to visit China. We are also interested in the possibility of scientific and technical exchanges, particularly in the fields of pastoral farming and forestry.

The purpose of all our efforts is to promote mutual understanding and friendship between China and New Zealand and thus to make our contribution to the peaceful progress of the region both our countries belong to - the region of Asia and the Pacific. China is near the northern end of the region, New Zealand is far to the south. The Pacific Ocean will unite us or divide us, according to

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our attitudes. We in New Zealand are determined to make it what its name implies, an ocean of peace. We are glad to work with China, and with other countries, to achieve this goal.

I propose a toast

- to the people of China and their great leader,
Chairman Mao;
 - to Premier Chou En-lai, Minister Pai Hsiang-kuo,
and their colleagues in the Chinese Government
 - to friendship between the Chinese people and the
people of New Zealand, and to growing trade
and cooperation between us;
 - to the peaceful progress of all countries in Asia
and the Pacific.
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Toast by Minister Pai at the Banquet in
honour of the New Zealand Trade Mission

Your Excellency, respected Minister & Mrs. Walding,
Your Excellency, respected Ambassador Harland,
Respected friends from New Zealand,

We feel very glad that the New Zealand Trade Delegation led by H.E. Minister Walding has come to China for a friendly visit at the invitation of the Chinese government. On behalf of the Chinese government, I express a warm welcome to H.E. Minister Walding and all the distinguished guests on the New Zealand Trade Delegation.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand, the economic and trade relations between our two countries have consistently developed and the exchange of visits by delegations and personages in all walks of life has become ever more frequent. Last spring, Minister Walding, the first visitor with the capacity of a minister from New Zealand after the establishment of Sino-New Zealand diplomatic relations, visited our country, thus making contributions to the development of friendly relations between the two countries. Two months ago, My colleagues and I has an opportunity to visit your beautiful and richly-endowed country. We received a friendly welcome and were entertained with gracious hospitality by the New Zealand government and personages in various circles. That visit was deeply impressed on our memory. I am very glad that I can avail myself of the opportunity when you visiting China to reciprocate your gracious sentiments.

The government of our country always stands for developing trade relations with various countries based on equality and mutual benefit in accordance with requirements and possibilities. During Minister Walding's current visit, we will sign the trade agreement between the two governments of China and New Zealand. This constitutes a big event in the history of trade relations between the two countries. We are convinced that with the joint efforts of the two sides, the trade ties between the two countries will be strengthened continuously and in stable steps.

May the delegation get success in the visit!

Now I propose a toast
to the friendship between the people of China and
New Zealand,
to the development of trade and friendly relations
between China and New Zealand,
to the health of H.E. Prime Minister Kirk,
to the health of H.E. Minister & Mrs. Walding,
to the health of H.E. Ambassador Harland,
to the health of all the distinguished guests
from New Zealand,
to the health of friends and comrades present!

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHINA

Group Photo with Zhou Enlai

Great Hall of the People, Beijing

31 March 1973

FRONT ROW

- (1) Pei
Ambassador designate to US
- (2) Liu Fong
Head of Liaison & Consular Dept. PRC
- (3) Bryce Harland
US Harland
Foreign Minister
- (4) Guo Fuchun
Foreign Minister
- (5) Han Jue
Foreign Minister
- (6) Chou Enlai
Foreign Minister
- (7) Geoff. Eastbrook-Smith
Dep. Sec. TEL
- (8) ...
- (9) Terence O'Brien
...
- (10) Derek Rennie
...

BACK ROW

- (1) ...
- (2) ...
- (3) Chris Elds
...
- (4) Colin Murray
TC May Kay
Frank Lee
- (5) Brian Bremner
- (6) Yang
...
- (7) Joan Wooley
- (8) ...
- (9) ...
- (10) Barry Gordon
WZBC
- (11) ...
- (12) ...