



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Bryan

14 August 1979

CHINA: VISIT BY PREMIER HUA GUOFENG

--- I enclose a draft outline programme for Hua Guofeng's visit from 30 October to 3 November. We should be grateful for the Prime Minister's approval. We have had no indication yet of Premier Hua's own wishes. If the Prime Minister is content in principle with the attached draft, we shall put it to the Chinese as a basis for discussion.

Premier Hua will be the highest-level visitor ever to come to Britain in the thirty years of the People's Republic of China. He is effectively Head of State, as well as Head of Government and, although it is impossible to predict the future course of Chinese politics, he is young (58) by Chinese standards and could well continue to hold these two positions for many years. He will probably be accompanied by the most senior Vice Premier ever to visit this country, Mr Yu Qiuli, who is in charge of economic planning, and by the Foreign Minister, Mr Huang Hua. A visit on this level represents a unique opportunity to influence Chinese political, economic and commercial thinking at the highest level. The draft programme has therefore been designed to give Hua and his party the best possible impression of British interest in China, and of Britain's political life and industrial and commercial capacity.

Premier Hua will have been the guest of the President of France, and we understand that the West Germans will also give a reception appropriate to a Head of State. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary recommends that Hua's reception in this country should not appear to the Chinese or to anyone else to compare unfavourably with his reception in the FRG and France, and considers that the Prime Minister's personal involvement in the visit will be of central importance. Lord Carrington hopes that Mrs Thatcher can offer Premier Hua two sessions of talks, which is what he will expect, (probably one to cover international affairs, and the other bilateral issues); and that as well as hosting a welcoming dinner, she should meet him and, if possible, see him off (at the helicopter landing site in Kensington Palace Gardens): it is Premier Hua's normal practice to go in person to greet visiting Prime Ministers at the airport on arrival. It would also create a particularly favourable impression if the Prime Minister were prepared to host a reception for Premier Hua at Lancaster House, provisionally scheduled for the evening of Hua's arrival.

We may be able to ask the Chinese to hold their return dinner on Friday 2 November, if this would suit the Prime Minister better than the Saturday. The disadvantage would be that the last day of the official visit (Saturday 3 November)

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/would



would then peter out, whereas under the present programme the dinner on the Saturday provides the high point. However, this disadvantage would be offset if the Prime Minister were able to say goodbye to Hua Guofeng on the Monday.

Lord Carrington realises that the draft programme imposes a heavy burden on the Prime Minister. However, he believes that the importance of the visit makes the Prime Minister's close involvement particularly desirable.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Defence, Trade, Industry, Education and Science, Energy, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and to the Lord President of the Council and Sir John Hunt.

*Yours ever,
Stephen*

(J S Wall)

8 August 1979

VISIT TO THE UK BY PREMIER HUA GUOFENG: 29 OCTOBER - 5 NOVEMBER 1979

MONDAY 29 OCTOBER

a.m. Arrival from Paris by air. Helicopter to Kensington Palace and Guard of Honour, if this can be arranged; greeted by the Prime Minister.

p.m. Free by request, except for:

1730-1900 Reception hosted by the Prime Minister or Lord Carrington at Lancaster House

TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER

0850-0915 Hovercraft from Westminster to Rochester (accompanied by Mr Nott)

0915-1100 Visit Lucas CAV diesel engine component factory, and (if time permits) Royal Naval College at Greenwich

1100 Return to Westminster Pier, and drive to hotel

1130-1215 Call by Mr Nott, accompanied by 6 to 8 businessmen

1300 Lunch at Buckingham Palace. Inspection of Guard of Honour on arrival.

1430-1500 Tour of State Rooms, escorted by Her Majesty (and possibly meeting with Prince Charles, if HRH is available and agrees).

1600-1800 First Plenary Session at No 10 (Lord Carrington and possibly other Cabinet Ministers to attend)

1815-1845 Huang Hua and Lord Carrington sign Air Services/ Cultural Agreement ~~in Banqueting Hall~~

2000 Dinner at No 10 (Black tie)

CONFIDENTIAL

WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER

0900-1030 Highspeed train to Derby (possibly accompanied by Sir Keith Joseph for part or all of provincial tour)

1030 Arrive Derby, received by Mayor (? Freedom of Derby)

1100-1415 Visit and lunch at GEC Power Station (West Burton), Parkray Automated Foundry (Derby), or Boots Pharmaceutical Factory (Nottingham)

1445-1515 Visit Rolls Royce briefly

1515-1700 Visit British Rail's Railway Technical Centre

evening Dinner and overnight with Rolls Royce

THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER

0830 (Subject to weather) Leave Derby for Bedford by air

0900-1115 Visit National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, and/or Modern Experimental Husbandry Farm, and/or see short Harrier demonstration.

1245-1415 Lunch by HMG, hosted by Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of Overseas Trade Board

1430 Listen to Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons

1600-1730 Second Plenary Session (possibly in the House of Commons)

1730-1815 Speaker's Reception

2000 Dinner at Mansion House

CONFIDENTIAL

FRIDAY_2_NOVEMBER

0930-1045 Visit to BP Exhibition at Britannic House

1045-1245 In the City of London: presentation by the Governor of the Bank of England and visits to Commodity markets

1300 Lunch with Governor of Bank of England

pm Free for calls (eg by Leader of the Opposition)

1730 Press Conference

2000 Romeo and Juliet at the Royal Opera House

SATURDAY_3_NOVEMBER

Visit to Oxford: probably accompanied by Mr Mark Carlisle.

Lunch with the Vice Chancellor; and tea with Mr Harold Macmillan; and possibly award of honorary degree

pm Return to London

2000 Return Dinner given by the Chinese

SUNDAY_4_NOVEMBER_

Free by request

MONDAY_5_NOVEMBER

Leave for Peking (seen off by Prime Minister or Lord Carrington) from Kensington Palace, if this can be arranged.

Alternative Department of Industry Proposal for morning/lunch on
Wednesday 31 October

0900 - 0930	Fly to Manchester
0930 - 1330	Industrial Visits in Manchester, probably Skelmersdale New Town and Chloride Industrial Batteries Factory Lunch at factory
1330 - 1400	Drive to airport
1400 - 1430	Fly to Derby
1430 - 1445	Drive to Rolls Royce
pm	As in main Programme

N.B. Numbers may not permit all Premier Hua's party to accompany him all the time (eg on hovercraft trips).