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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

This is a courtesy call, so that you meet him before Zhao Ziyang's visit.

16 May 1985

I suggest that you talk about the programme for the visit, but avoid contentious subjects like our representation on the Joint Liaison Group.

Courtesy Call on Prime Minister by Chinese Ambassador: 17 May

The new Chinese Ambassador, Mr Hu Dingyi, is paying a courtesy call, accompanied by one member of his staff. I attach a short brief, together with a personality note and the latest version of the programme for Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit.

The Ambassador mentioned in his initial call on Sir Geoffrey Howe how pleased he was that he had already met the Prime Minister, when she was Secretary of State for Education. He did not indicate a precise date or the subject of the meeting and we have not been able to track down details from DES.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Group/Class..... PREM 19.....

Piece..... 1425.....

Courtesy call on PM by Chinese
Ambassador, 17 May 1985
(enc. to Ricketts to Powell,
16 May 1985)

Paper extracted and
temporarily retained
under Section 3(4)
pending completion of
review.

(date)..... 28 November 2013.....

(Signed)..... Wayland.....

MR HU DINGYI

Born in 1921 in Sichuan Province, Mr Hu, a university graduate, began his diplomatic career in 1950. His first overseas appointment (in 1950) was as Third Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi.

In 1954, Mr Hu was posted as Third, (later Second) Secretary in the Office of the Chargé d'Affaires in London. After 4 years he returned to Peking for two years in Western European Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1960 he went to Accra, where he worked for six years as Second, (later First) Secretary. The Ghanaian government declared him and two other Chinese diplomats "undesirable" in March 1966 and asked them to leave within 48 hours. In 1972 he returned to London, for a seven-year posting, as Cultural and Press Counsellor from April 1973. He then served in the United States, as Consul-General in San Francisco (1979-83) and as Minister in The Embassy in Washington (1983-84).

Mr Hu's previous appointments in the United States and his retention beyond the normal retiring age of 60, suggest that he is highly regarded in his Foreign Ministry. He took on his present appointment as Ambassador in London on 15 April 1985.

Mr Hu is married with a son (studying business management in Canada) and a daughter (a Portuguese specialist in the MFA). His wife, Madame Xie Heng, was Second Secretary in the Embassy during her husband's last posting. They are both unusually open-minded for Chinese diplomats. They share an interest in the theatre, somewhat surprisingly including fringe theatre. On his last posting to London, Mr Hu urged members of the Chinese Embassy to take an active interest in British culture and invited the Great Britain-China Centre to give lectures to them on the Arts in Britain.

Mr Hu has an impressive command of English; his wife's is also excellent.

Far Eastern Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
May 1985

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TXV 408/301/1

VISIT OF PREMIER ZHAO: 2-8 JUNE

Outline Programme

Ninth Draft

(No function can be regarded as included in the programme without prior clearance through Protocol Department)

Sunday 2 June

1750 Arrival on special flight Boeing 707 from Peking at Southside VIP Suite during afternoon. RAF Ceremonial Guard. Met by Secretary of State. No engagements for the rest of the day.

2000 Leave hotel for private engagement.

Monday 3 June

1000 Guard of Honour in FCO Quadrangle followed by Courtesy call on Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street

1030- Calls from Leaders of opposition parties in
1115 House of Commons

1115 Speakers Reception

Lunch privately at Claridges

1600- Talks at 10 Downing Street
1800

1945- Dinner at 10 Downing Street
2000

Tuesday 4 June

0930 - At Claridges. Meeting with industrialists
1030 and financiers.

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Tuesday 4 June (contd)

1100 Wu Xueqian and Zhou Nan to call on Secretary of State.

? Zhou Nan to call on PUS

1100 Courtesy call at Claridges by Mr Tebbit (followed by talks with the Vice Premier?)

1245- Lunch at Mansion House
1500

1515 Depart for British Aerospace, Hatfield

1630 Depart in special flight for Scotland approx

1715 Arrive RAF Turnhouse, Edinburgh

1900 Dinner at Edinburgh Castle
for
1930

Stay overnight in Edinburgh

Wednesday 5 June

0815 Leave Edinburgh Sheraton

0915 Arrive Anderson Strathclyde, Motherwell

1030 Leave Anderson Strathclyde

1100 Arrive Ferranti, Livingstone

1200 Leave Ferranti

1210 Arrive Houstoun House

1230 Luncheon Hosted by CBI

1400 Leave Houstoun House for sightseeing

1530 Arrive RAF Turnhouse

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Wednesday 5 June (cont'd)

1545 Depart in British Aerospace 146

1630 Arrive Hatfield

1730 Arrive Claridges

Midlands party of 14 lead by the Vice Premier leave Edinburgh on 0840 scheduled flight for Birmingham. Visit Austin Rover and GEC Telecommunications. Lunch in Coventry. ? Further programme.

Return to London by train

No engagements in the evening

Thursday 6 June

1030- Chatham House talk by Premier entitled "Work
1145 for a lasting peace, increase friendly
co-operation and promote common prosperity"

1300 Lunch with The Queen

1630- Second round of talks at Downing Street
1730

1900 Chinese Ambassador's reception at Claridges

2015 Dinner given by the Premier at the Embassy

Friday 7 June

Visit Cambridge. Sightseeing; lunch at 1200
in Trinity Master's Lodge. Lord Young to
accompany. Visit Cambridge Science Park.

1515 Return to London

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Friday 7 June (contd)

1815 Attend Ballet. Host Lord Gowrie.
Supper at Royal Opera House.

Saturday 8 June

0900 The Prime Minister will call to bid farewell

0930- Press Conference at Claridges
1000

1015- Chinese Community Function at Claridges
1100

1130 Visit Karl Marx Tomb

1200 Lunch at Claridges

1310 Depart for Southside

1400 Departure for Bonn. Mr Luce will bid
farewell.

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