

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pleasure that we welcome today. Mr. Zhao Ziyang, premier of the People's Republic of China.

(Applause)

[English]

[Simultaneous interpretation]

His Excellency Zhao Ziyang (Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China):

Mr. Speaker of the Senate,

Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons,

Mr. Prime Minister,

The Honourable Members of Parliament,

I have come to visit your country at the kind invitation of Prime Minister Trudeau, bringing with me the deep friendship of the one billion Chinese people for the Canadian people. I feel greatly honoured to have this opportunity of speaking to this august gathering.

Contacts between the Chinese and Canadian peoples began over two hundred and fifty years ago. At that time, tens of thousands of Chinese came to Canada and joined the Canadian people in developing this country. Many Canadian friends also went to China to live and work there. When the Chinese people were in times of difficulty, Dr. Norman Bethune gave up his life for Chinese people's cause of liberation. In October 1970, the People's Republic of China and Canada formally established diplomatic relations, thus ushering in a new stage in the friendship between our two peoples. Sino-Canadian friendship has since then developed steadily, contacts have increased, and exchanges and co-operation have expanded. Many Members of the Canadian Parliament and friends from all walks of life have worked unremittingly for and made valuable contributions to all this. Reviewing the past and looking into the future, we are fully confident of the bright prospects for the expansion of Sino-Canadian friendly relations and co-operation.

Now I would like to take this opportunity to speak about China's foreign policy and some related questions.

What is the fundamental principle of China's foreign policy? To answer this question briefly, it is independence. We do not attach ourselves to any big power and are not subject to any big power's will. We have determined our foreign policy in line with our judgment on international affairs formed according to the fundamental interests of the Chinese people and those of the world people.

It includes the following points: (1) to develop relations with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence; (2) to strengthen solidarity with the other Third World countries and friendship with the people of all countries; and (3) to oppose hegemonism and safeguard world peace.

You all know that in modern history China was badly bullied and oppressed by foreign powers, and the Chinese people waged long and bitter struggles and ultimately won

national independence at tremendous costs. Therefore, we are jealous of our own independence and at the same time highly respect the independence of other countries. Back in the early 1950s China initiated the Five Principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence, as norms guiding international relations. It is on these principles that we have handled our relations with other countries. We will never contravene these principles; nor do we want to see them violated by other countries in their mutual relations.

It is gratifying that the above-mentioned principles have been adhered to by both China and Canada in their mutual relations. The state of Sino-Canadian relations shows that countries with different social systems should and can live together in amity and co-operation to mutual benefit. We will work with Canada for the sustained development of our friendly relations and co-operation in the interest of the well-being of our peoples and the prosperity of our countries.

China is seeking to develop relations on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence with all countries, which include the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union. China has all along valued Sino-U.S. relations. The Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence are acknowledged as norms guiding Sino-U.S. relations in the 1979 communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The United States recognizes that there is but one China, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government of China and that Taiwan is a part of China. It has stated that it has no intention to infringe upon China's sovereignty and interfere in China's internal affairs.

Relations between China and the United States have made fairly big progress since the establishment of Sino-U.S. diplomatic relations. However, there have also been ups and downs, and twists and turns. The main obstacle is the question of Taiwan. During my visit to the United States I held friendly, candid and serious talks with President Reagan and other leaders of the U.S. Government. The American side once again affirmed the above principles. We hope that the two sides will work together, strictly abide by the mutually agreed principles in their action and truly fulfil commitments already made, so that Sino-U.S. relations may take the path of steady development.

We also sincerely wish to see normalization of Sino-Soviet relations. The present state of Sino-Soviet relations is not to the benefit of world peace. We are trying to maintain normal relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. This requires the removal of the three obstacles to the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations: First, the Soviet Union must stop supporting Viet Nam in its aggression against Kampuchea; second, it must withdraw its troops from Afghanistan; and third, it must withdraw its forces from the Sino-Soviet border and Mongolia.