

APPENDIX

ADDRESS

of

ZHAO ZIYANG

Premier of the State Council of the People's
Republic of China

to

Both Houses of Parliament

in the

House of Commons Chamber, Ottawa

on

Tuesday, January 17, 1984

[Translation]

His Excellency, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China was welcomed by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the Honourable Maurice Riel, Speaker of the Senate and the Honourable Lloyd Francis, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Hon. Lloyd Francis (Speaker of the House of Commons): I now invite the Right Honourable the Prime Minister to introduce His Excellency, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Premier Zhao Ziyang, distinguished guests, honourable members of the Senate and the House of Commons, Canada and this Parliament are greatly honoured today to have in our company a most distinguished guest, the Premier of the People's Republic of China.

[English]

Mr. Premier, I welcome you on behalf of the people of Canada. You have come to a land of icy skies and snowy ground and you have come as a friend. This is a unique and momentous occasion. It is unique because it is the first time that a Chinese Premier has come to Canada and the first time that a high official of the People's Republic of China has addressed us. It is momentous because this occasion constitutes a recognition of the very special ties which unite our two nations and underscores the fact that Canada's relations across the Pacific are an increasingly important factor in our foreign and economic policies.

Canada is a very young country by Chinese standards. Two hundred years ago, Ottawa was a clearing in the woods. Two thousand years ago, China was at the height of civilization. Chinese artists and philosophers produced works still regarded as masterpieces today. During the dark and middle ages in Europe, a steady flow of Chinese inventions and processes

enriched our civilization; the compass, gunpowder, silkmaking and printing, for example. During the enlightenment Chinese artistic design took the salons of Europe by storm.

China, as the middle kingdom, has always played a predominant role in the world. During many periods in its history its influence had spread well beyond the boundaries of Asia. Certainly today China has regained its full eminence as a force to be reckoned with in world affairs. Its strong leadership role in the Third World, its advocacy of better North-South and South-South relations, for example, are well known and widely respected. China's strong opposition to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and its support for the Cambodian coalition government are equally important in the Asian balance of power.

We in Canada share many of China's concerns and attitudes on these questions and consider close consultations such as we have this morning with the People's Republic of China as an important part of our foreign policy. We are proud of having established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1970, and are extremely pleased that since then our bilateral relationships have achieved such variety, depth and warmth. Over the years many have contributed to the relationship both in China and in Canada. Today I pay tribute to them. We speak often of Norman Bethune and of Chester Ronning and rightly so. But going back even into the 19th Century there were thousands of others whose work has brought us to where we are today.

When I made an official visit in China in 1973, the current phase of our relations was very much in a formative stage. Nevertheless, a number of understandings were reached, the fruits of which we are seeing today. In areas of family reunification, of cultural and sporting and academic exchanges, substantial and in some cases dramatic progress has been made. To cite just three examples, as of the end of last year, some 22,000 Chinese have been reunited with their relatives in