

June 10, 1981

**Toast by the Secretary-General to the Vice-Premier
of China, Beijing, 10 June 1981**

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Summary:

Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim thanks China for its growing involvement in international affairs.

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TOAST BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE VICE-PREMIER OF CHINABEIJING, 10 JUNE 1981

Mr. Vice-Premier, Madame Huang Hua, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most grateful to you, Mr. Vice-Premier, for the invitation extended by your Government to me and my wife to visit China and for the kind words you have spoken just now. This is my fourth visit to this great country. Thanks to your warm and gracious hospitality and the most interesting and helpful exchange of views that I have always had here in Beijing, each one of these visits has been not only memorable but also of the utmost value to me.

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The talks which we began today were particularly useful for me as they gave me a better understanding of your country's position on the many matters of mutual concern. I am looking forward to continuing these discussions both with you and other leaders of the Chinese Government.

Returning here after two years, I am again greatly impressed by the momentous effort that is being made by the largest nation in the world to achieve continued social and economic progress. China's national mission to satisfy the needs and aspirations of its immense population is of truly historic importance.

[Considering the formidable difficulties which China had to face in this endeavour, the self-reliance which it has shown is a source of inspiration to all who strive to eradicate poverty from the world. By their hard work and determination and also by their open-mindedness to the results of experience, the people of China are setting an example of lasting value. I would like to express my admiration for these most impressive efforts, and my heartfelt wishes for their further success.]

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations.

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I wish to take this opportunity to pay a warm tribute to the increasingly active role that China is playing in the manifold activities of the world Organization. In that context, I should like to recall with sincere appreciation the vital contribution which you yourself, Mr. Vice-Premier, as China's first Permanent Representative to the United Nations, made in establishing and promoting this positive co-operation. Let me also say how much my wife and I cherish the warm personal friendship that has developed with you and Madame Huang Hua over these past ten years.

At the same time, I must emphasize here that the United Nations needs a minimum of confidence and dialogue among the Member States, particularly the great powers, in order to play an effective rôle.

There is a striking paradox in the world today. Everybody realizes the need for disarmament, fully recognizing the catastrophic consequences of a continuation of the present arms race. However, the sale of arms goes on unabated and more than 500 billion dollars are spent each year on armaments. The world has reached an overkill and still nations are not ready to make a concerted effort to stop the trend and sit down to serious talks on disarmament.

Another source of deep concern to me is the stalemate in the North-South dialogue. Our endeavours to launch global economic negotiations, including, for the first time, the energy issue, have so far remained unsuccessful.

I am deeply convinced that there can be no lasting stability in the world while millions continue to exist in a state of absolute poverty and deprivation. It is therefore essential that renewed efforts be made to overcome the present deadlock and I sincerely hope that the forthcoming Ottawa and Mexico summits will help to achieve a breakthrough.

Let me say that in the very complex world situation which we face today, no instant solutions of crises and conflicts are possible. Patient diplomacy and unceasing perseverance in our efforts are necessary in order to solve these problems.

It is unfortunately true that we have not yet fulfilled the noble ideals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. While we have to remain aware of all dangers, we have also to be alert to opportunities for promoting greater international co-operation. With the support of its Member States, especially the Permanent Members of the Security Council, the world Organization stands ready to assist in this process.

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Mr. Vice-Premier, I welcome the opportunity of reviewing the important issues on the world's agenda with the Chinese Government. As I said earlier, your views about their solutions are of the greatest interest to me and to the United Nations as a whole. I highly value the steadfast co-operation which your Government and your Permanent Mission in New York have extended to me in my efforts towards peace and better understanding amongst the nations of the world. The consistent support of the People's Republic of China is a source of encouragement to all of us in the United Nations.

With these words, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I would now ask you to join me in a toast to the health of
His Excellency the Vice-Premier and Madame Huang Hua
and to the prosperity of the people of China.

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