

Brussels, 3 April 1978

CEREMONY OF SIGNING

OF

THE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE EEC

(Brussels - 3 April 1978)

Speech by Mr LI KIANG

Minister for External Trade  
of the People's Republic of China

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Address by Mr Li Kiang, Minister  
for External Trade of the People's Republic of China,  
at the ceremony of signing of the Trade Agreement  
between the People's Republic of China and the EEC

Mr President,

Sir,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me, on behalf of my Government, to sign the Trade Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the European Economic Community today with the representatives of the EEC. The signing of this Agreement marks a new development in political and economic relations between China and the EEC and will go down in the history of relations between the two parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

President Mao Tse-tung, the great leader and educator of the Chinese people, and Prime Minister Chou En-lai, whose memory remains deeply engraved in the minds of our people, were much concerned to foster relations between China and the EEC. During his illness Prime Minister Chou En-lai had talks with the emissary of friendship of the EEC, former Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames, in hospital in Peking in May 1975. The two parties decided by joint agreement to establish official relations. Since then our friendly contacts with the EEC and its Member States have multiplied and our economic and trade relations have developed. Smooth co-operation has been established between our diplomatic mission to the EEC and

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its bodies with the aim of promoting friendly relations between the two parties. And today we have just signed the Trade Agreement. We are sure that there are broad prospects of economic and trade relations ahead, so long as we conscientiously abide by the spirit of the Agreement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The social system of our country is different from that of the States of Western Europe, but we are all faced with a common task, which is to safeguard our independence and sovereignty. We have much in common and should provide each other with mutual support. We support Western Europe in its union for strength and in its struggle against hegemony. We want to see a united and powerful Europe, and the countries of Europe, for their part, we are sure, want to see a prosperous and powerful China. We are prepared to make our contribution to the development of co-operation and friendship between our country and the EEC.

May the European Economic Community continue to develop and increase in strength!

May there be new developments in relations between China and the EEC!

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