

Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien's Speech

(Excerpts)

THE Honourable Prime Minister Somare, crossing the vast ocean, has come to our country for an official visit at the invitation of the Chinese Government and brought to the Chinese people the friendly sentiments of the people of Papua New Guinea. Today we have signed a joint communique on the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. On behalf of the Chinese Government and people, I wish to express our warm welcome to the Prime Minister and Mrs. Somare and the other distinguished guests from Papua New Guinea as well as our warm congratulations on the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

Papua New Guinea is a richly endowed and beautiful country in the South Pacific. After waging protracted and unremitting struggles, the brave and industrious people of Papua New Guinea finally won independence on September 16 last year. Since then they have continued to make great efforts to safeguard national independence, state sovereignty and territorial integrity and develop their national economy. The Chinese people heartily rejoice at the successes achieved by the people of Papua New Guinea and wish them continuous new victories on their road of advance.

Last month, our great leader and teacher Chairman Mao left us for ever. The passing away of Chairman Mao has evoked immense grief in the hearts of the people of all nationalities in our country. The leaders and people of various circles of many countries, Prime Minister Somare included, have sent us messages of condolence to honour the memory of Chairman Mao. For this we express our heartfelt thanks.

Chairman Mao Tsetung pointed out: The current international situation is characterized by great disorder under heaven, and it is excellent. All the basic contradictions in the world today are sharpening. The two superpowers are locked in a desperate rivalry for world hegemony, which reflects the irreconcilable contradictions between them and is bound to lead to war. In particular, the superpower that daily clamours about "detente" and "disarmament" is the main source of a new war. Flaunting the banner of "socialism," it extends its arm for expansion in all parts of the world, not excepting the South Pacific. But it lacks the strength to carry out its wild ambitions. Beset with troubles both at home and abroad, it finds the going very hard. Its pipe dream to dominate the whole globe and enslave all the world's people is doomed to be dashed. The future of the world is in the hands of the people. Chairman Mao said: "The people, and the people alone, are the motive force in the making of world history." "All the reputedly powerful reactionaries are merely paper tigers. The

reason is that they are divorced from the people." Countries want independence, nations want liberation and the people want revolution — this has become an irresistible historical trend pounding away at superpower hegemony with the force of a mighty tide. The numerous third world countries are playing an ever more important role in international affairs. It is not the third world that fears the superpowers but the superpowers that fear the third world. The people of all countries will surely win final victory if they get united and persevere in struggle. Any country, big or small, has its strong and weak points. Big nations should not bully small ones, and strong nations should not bully weak ones. The Chinese people are determined to implement the revolutionary line in foreign affairs formulated by Chairman Mao personally, never seek hegemony but unite with all the forces in the world that can be united with to jointly carry the struggle against imperialism and hegemonism through to the end.

The situation in China is excellent, too. Mourning with profound sorrow our great leader and teacher Chairman Mao, we the entire Chinese people are determined to turn grief into strength, rally closely round the Party's Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, conscientiously study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and, acting upon Chairman Mao's teachings, persist in taking class struggle as the key link, keep to the Party's basic line, persevere in the continued revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, uphold proletarian internationalism, deepen the struggle to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping and repulse the Right deviationist attempt at reversing correct verdicts, consolidate and develop the victories of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, grasp revolution and promote production and other work and preparedness against war, work hard to build China into a powerful socialist country and strive to make a greater contribution to humanity.

Although China and Papua New Guinea are far apart geographically, the vast Pacific Ocean is no barrier to the friendship between the people of our two countries. Back in the last century, Chinese contract labourers sold by Western colonialists already worked and lived on your land together with your people and sowed the seeds of friendship. Both China and Papua New Guinea belong to the third world. A common historical lot and common fighting objectives have bound us together. We are glad to note that in the past year and more friendly contacts between our two governments and peoples have made new progress. In February last year Sir Maori Kiki, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Foreign Affairs and Trade of

Papua New Guinea, visited China upon invitation. In September last year the representative of the Chinese Government was invited to attend the celebrations of the independence of Papua New Guinea. There has also been an increasing exchange of visits between trade officials and persons of various circles of our two coun-

tries. We believe that the current visit to China by the Honourable Prime Minister Somare personally and the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries will add a new chapter to the annals of the development of relations between our two countries. We wish Prime Minister Somare a fully successful visit.

Prime Minister M.T. Somare's Speech

(Excerpts)

THANK you Mr. Vice-Premier for the words of welcome and for the overwhelming reception we have received in China. Thank you too for offering my wife and I and members of my delegation such warm hospitality here in the Great Hall of the People. It is indeed an honour for the leader of one of the newest and smallest actors on the world stage to be received by the leaders and people of one of the oldest and greatest nations of the world.

Before saying anything else, I feel I should express again the condolences of the Government and people of Papua New Guinea on the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung. Chairman Mao was a leader of world stature and his influence will be felt well beyond his passing.

It is a great pleasure to be able to note on this occasion that our two countries have agreed to enter into diplomatic relations. Undoubtedly this will improve and expand the friendly informal relationship we already enjoy.

One of the early steps taken by my government was to make approaches for the establishment of active trade relations with your country. The Chinese Government responded warmly and we are very happy that our bilateral trade is expanding and will undoubtedly prosper.

Indeed, the People's Republic of China is at present holding an economic and trade exhibition in our

capital, Port Moresby. This is arousing great interest amongst the people of Papua New Guinea. I hope that, at some time in the future, Papua New Guinea will be able to reciprocate.

I believe that it is very important for our two countries to learn more about each other. It is the hope of the Papua New Guinea Government that its universalist foreign policy will be the appropriate context within which to encourage an exchange of information and culture.

Papua New Guinea has been isolated from the rest of the world for many centuries. Since independence on 16th September 1975, Papua New Guinea has been actively developing contacts with the rest of the world. We want to do this in such a way as to make friends with all and enemies of none. We will seek friendship with all countries regardless of ideology, creed or economic system. The only exception to this is that we will not have any dealings with countries which practise apartheid or carry out racist policies totally unacceptable to us.

Papua New Guinea is not in any bloc or political group. We stand on our own. We are a peace-loving people. As a small and new nation we have little influence on the world situation. We therefore look to major powers such as China to do everything possible to maintain world peace so that our birthright of independence is preserved.