

# **A NEW PAGE IN THE ANNALS OF SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS**

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS PEKING

**A NEW PAGE  
IN THE ANNALS  
OF SINO-JAPANESE  
RELATIONS**

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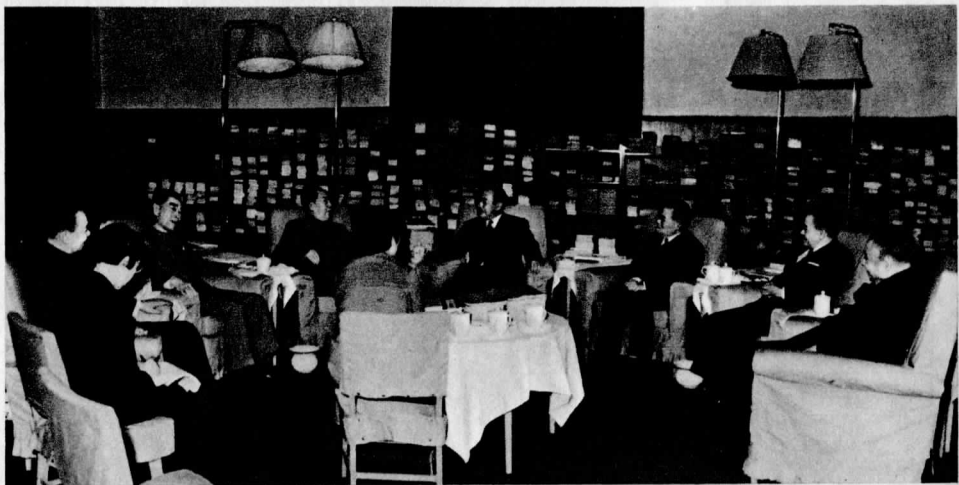
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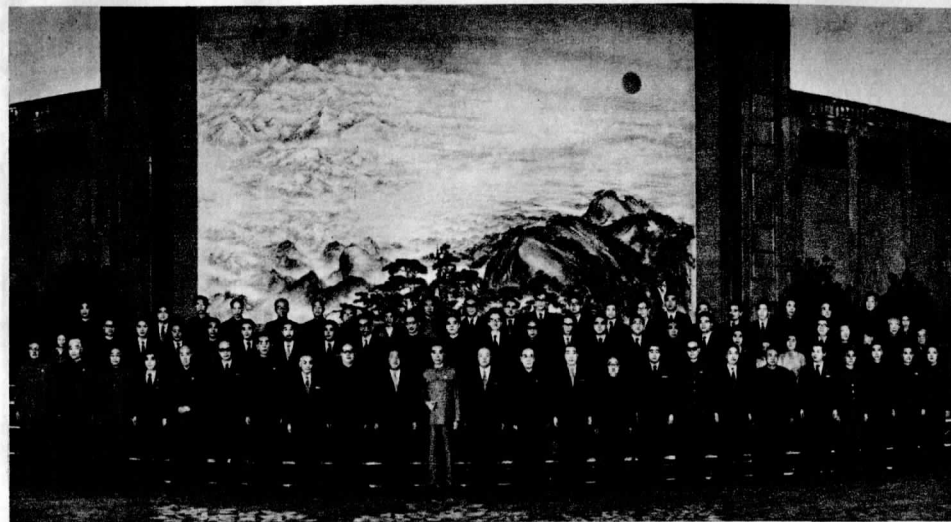
Printed in the People's Republic of China



Chairman Mao Tsetung shakes hands with Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka



Chairman Mao Tsetung meets Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka



Premier Chou En-lai gives a banquet welcoming Prime Minister Tanaka. Here hosts and guests pose for a picture before the banquet



Premier Chou En-lai and Prime Minister Tanaka hold talks



The Joint Statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan was signed in Peking on September 29, 1972

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## CHAIRMAN MAO TSETUNG MEETS PRIME MINISTER KAKUEI TANAKA

Chairman Mao Tsetung met Prime Minister of Japan Kakuei Tanaka at Chungnanhai, Peking, on the evening of September 27. They held earnest and friendly discussions for one hour, beginning 20:30.

Present on the Japanese side were Masayoshi Ohira, Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Susumu Nikaido, Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat.

Present on the Chinese side were Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council; Chi Peng-fei, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Liao Cheng-chih, Adviser to the Foreign Ministry and President of the China-Japan Friendship Association; and Lin Li-yun and Wang Hsiao-hsien, interpreters.

*(Hsinhua dispatch, September 27, 1972)*

## PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S TOAST

### At the Banquet Welcoming Prime Minister Tanaka

(September 25, 1972)

Your Excellency Respected Prime Minister Kakuei  
Tanaka,

Distinguished Guests from Japan,

Friends and Comrades,

We are glad that His Excellency Kakuei Tanaka, Prime Minister of Japan, has come to visit our country upon invitation to negotiate and settle the question of the normalization of relations between China and Japan. On behalf of Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Government, I express warm welcome to Prime Minister Tanaka and the other distinguished guests from Japan.

Prime Minister Tanaka's visit to China opens a new page in the history of Sino-Japanese relations. Friendly contacts and cultural exchanges between our two countries have a history of two thousand years, and our two peoples have forged a profound friendship; all this we should treasure. However, in the half-century after 1894, owing to the Japanese militarists' aggression against China, the Chinese people were made to endure tremen-

dous disasters and the Japanese people, too, suffered a great deal from it. The past not forgotten is a guide for the future. We should firmly bear the experience and the lesson in mind. Following Chairman Mao Tsetung's teachings, the Chinese people make a strict distinction between the very few militarists and the broad masses of the Japanese people. Therefore, since the founding of the People's Republic of China, although the state of war between the two countries has not been declared terminated, friendly contacts and trade relations between the Chinese and Japanese peoples have continuously developed instead of being interrupted. In the past few years, the number of Japanese friends visiting China each year exceeded the number of friends from other countries and the volume of China's trade with Japan based on equality and mutual benefit surpassed that with other countries. This has created favourable conditions for the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

At present, tremendous changes are taking place in the world situation. After assuming office, Prime Minister Tanaka resolutely put forward a new policy towards China, stated that the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China would be expedited and expressed full understanding of China's three principles for the restoration of diplomatic relations and has, to this end, taken practical steps. Proceeding from its consistent stand, the Chinese Government has made positive response. There is already a good basis for the normalization of relations between the two countries. It is the common desire of the Chinese and Japanese peoples to promote Sino-Japanese friendship and restore

diplomatic relations between China and Japan. Now is the time for us to accomplish this historic task.

Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister, before you left for China, you had said that agreement can be reached in the negotiations between the two countries and that agreement must be reached. I am deeply convinced that, through the efforts of our two sides, conducting full consultations and seeking common ground on major points while reserving differences on minor points, the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations can certainly be realized.

The social systems of China and Japan are different. However, this should not be an obstacle to our two countries living together as equals and in friendship. The restoration of diplomatic relations between China and Japan and the establishment of friendly and good-neighbourly relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence will open up broad prospects for the further development of friendly contacts between our two peoples and the expansion of economic and cultural exchanges between our two countries. Sino-Japanese friendship is not exclusive; it will contribute to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the safeguarding of world peace.

Both the Chinese and Japanese nations are great nations. Both the Chinese and Japanese peoples are industrious and valiant peoples. The Chinese and Japanese peoples should live in friendship from generation to generation. On behalf of the Chinese people, I wish to extend here to the Japanese people our greetings as

well as our sincere wishes for their still greater successes on the road of advance.

Today, leaders of China and Japan have already begun their talks of great significance on the question of the normalization of relations between the two countries. We expect that our talks will achieve complete success.

In conclusion, I propose a toast

to the health of His Excellency Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka,

to the health of His Excellency Masayoshi Ohira, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency Susumu Nikaido, Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat,

to the health of the other distinguished guests from Japan,

to the health of all our friends and comrades present, and

to Sino-Japanese friendship!



PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S TOAST  
At the Welcoming Banquet Given by Premier  
Chou En-lai

(September 25, 1972)

Your Excellency Respected Premier Chou En-lai,  
Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be able this time to set foot on the soil of our neighbour China in my capacity as Prime Minister of Japan, at the invitation of Your Excellency Premier Chou En-lai. My heart is very much warmed by such a grand evening banquet held here today to welcome us. I hereby express my deep thanks to you gentlemen from various quarters concerned for your considerate attention.

I flew non-stop from Tokyo to Peking on this trip. It makes me once again deeply aware that Japan and China are close neighbours with only a strip of water in between. The two countries are not only so close to each other geographically, but have a history of 2,000 years of rich and varied ties.

However, it is regretful that for several decades in the past the relations between Japan and China had unfortunate experiences. During that time our country

caused great trouble to the Chinese people for which I once again make profound self-examination. After World War II the relations between Japan and China remained in an abnormal and unnatural state. We cannot but frankly admit this historical fact.

But we should not for ever linger in the dim blind alley of the past. In my opinion, it is important now for the leaders of Japan and China to confer in the interest of tomorrow. That is to say, to conduct frank and sincere talks for the common goal of peace and prosperity in Asia and in the world as a whole. It is precisely for that goal that I have come here. We hope that we can establish friendly and good-neighbourly relations with great China and its people and that the two countries will on the one hand respect each other's relations with its friendly countries and on the other make contributions to peace and prosperity in Asia and in the world at large.

It goes without saying that Japan and China have different political convictions and social systems. Yet, I think, in spite of all this, it is possible for Japan and China to establish good-neighbourly and friendly relations and, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, strengthen contacts, respect each other's stand and carry out co-operation.

The normalization of relations is absolutely necessary to the establishment of good-neighbourly and friendly relations between Japan and China on a solid basis. Of course, the two sides have their own basic positions and peculiar conditions. But despite the fact that some minor differences exist between the positions and views

of the two sides, I believe it is possible for Japan and China to overcome their divergence of views and reach agreement in the spirit of seeking common ground on major questions and of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. I am willing to accomplish this important task and take a new step forward along the road of long-standing Japan-China friendship.

Finally, I avail myself of my host's wine to propose that we raise our glasses with His Excellency Premier Chou En-lai and other gentlemen in a toast

to the happiness and health of His Excellency Chairman Mao Tsetung,

to the health of His Excellency Premier Chou En-lai and the success of his work, and

to the lasting friendship between the peoples of Japan and China and peace and prosperity in Asia!

## PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S TOAST

### At the Reciprocal Banquet

(September 28, 1972)

Your Excellency Premier Chou En-lai,

Gentlemen,

I am very glad to have the opportunity to give this banquet this evening to express our gratitude, and to have the company of His Excellency Premier Chou En-lai and other government leaders of the People's Republic of China as well as gentlemen from various quarters concerned.

I would like to express once again my deep thanks to His Excellency Premier Chou En-lai, other leaders of the People's Republic of China and gentlemen from various quarters concerned for the warm hospitality and very sincere attention they have given me and Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira, Chief Cabinet Secretary Susumu Nikaido, and the other members of my party and the press corps.

Furthermore, yesterday I had the opportunity to meet His Excellency Chairman Mao Tsetung; we had an extensive exchange of views on the future of Japan-China

relations and on various international questions. I am deeply moved by the discussions.

I have come to visit China to fulfil the serious task of normalizing the relations between Japan and China. Since my arrival in your country, I have had cordial meetings with His Excellency Premier Chou En-lai and gentlemen from various quarters concerned of your country and have on several occasions had very frank exchange of views with them in a friendly atmosphere throughout. As a result, I am deeply convinced that the great cause of normalization of relations can now be realized.

It took many years on an arduous journey before the leaders of Japan and China were able to sit down for friendly talks like now. I express my thanks to the personages of various quarters in our two countries for their contributions in paving the way for the dialogue between Japan and China. Normalization of relations is the first step towards tomorrow and I will advance towards the new horizons in the sweeping tide of history. In the days to come quite a number of questions still remain to be settled between Japan and China. However, I am sure that these questions are not beyond solution so long as our two countries deal with them in the spirit of mutual accommodation and mutual trust.

I am deeply convinced that the termination of the abnormal state of affairs between our two countries and the realization of the normalization of relations long cherished by our two peoples will not only open a new chapter in the annals of our two countries but contribute to peace in Asia and the world as a whole.

I sincerely hope that our current visit to China will be the beginning of increased exchanges between our two countries so that they will be closely bound by the ties of friendship.

In closing, may I raise my glass with the gentlemen present in a toast

to the health of His Excellency Chairman Mao Tsetung, China's great leader, and His Excellency Premier Chou En-lai, and to the success of their work,

to the prosperity of the People's Republic of China,

to the lasting friendship between the peoples of Japan and China and to peace in Asia and the world!

## PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S TOAST

At the Reciprocal Banquet Given by  
Prime Minister Tanaka

(September 28, 1972)

Your Excellency Respected Prime Minister Kakuei  
Tanaka,

Distinguished Guests from Japan,  
Friends and Comrades,

This evening His Excellency Prime Minister Tanaka is holding a banquet to kindly entertain us. Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese colleagues present here and in my own name, to express our deep thanks to His Excellency the Prime Minister and all the other distinguished Japanese guests.

Prime Minister Tanaka's visit to China, short as it is, has yielded fruitful results.

Prime Minister Tanaka met Chairman Mao Tsetung and they had an earnest and friendly conversation for an hour.

Our two sides held talks and had earnest, frank and friendly discussions on the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations and on questions of common interest

to both sides. In the spirit of mutual understanding and seeking common ground on major points while reserving differences on minor points, we have reached agreement on a series of important questions on the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

We are going to end the abnormal state of affairs which has existed between the two countries up to now. The termination of the state of war and the normalization of relations between China and Japan — the realization of these long-cherished wishes of the Chinese and Japanese peoples will open a new chapter in the relations between our two countries and make a positive contribution to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the safeguarding of world peace.

I warmly acclaim the complete success of our talks and highly appraise the important contributions made by Prime Minister Tanaka and Foreign Minister Ohira to the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan.

The achievements we have made should be credited to the peoples of our two countries. I am sure that they will greatly rejoice over our achievements.

At this historic moment, I wish to express sincere thanks and respects on behalf of the Chinese people to Japanese friends of all walks of life who over a long period of time made contributions in promoting Sino-Japanese friendship and normalization of Sino-Japanese relations including those who even did not hesitate to lay down their lives for this purpose.

China and Japan are countries with fundamentally different social systems. However, the fruitful talks

between our two sides prove that, so long as both sides have confidence, problems between the two countries can be solved through consultations on an equal footing.

I am convinced that so long as both sides faithfully abide by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, peaceful and friendly relations between our two countries can surely develop continuously and the great peoples of our two countries can certainly live in friendship from generation to generation.

Now I propose a toast

to the health of His Excellency Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka,

to the health of His Excellency Masayoshi Ohira, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency Susumu Nikaido, Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat,

to the health of the other distinguished guests from Japan,

to the health of our friends and comrades present, and

to the great friendship between the Chinese and Japanese peoples!

## JOINT STATEMENT

### of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan

At the invitation of Premier Chou En-lai of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of Japan visited the People's Republic of China from September 25 to 30, 1972. Accompanying Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka were Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira, Chief Cabinet Secretary Susumu Nikaido and other government officials.

Chairman Mao Tsetung met Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka on September 27. The two sides had an earnest and friendly conversation.

Premier Chou En-lai and Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei had an earnest and frank exchange of views with Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira, all along in a friendly atmosphere, on various matters between the two countries and other matters of interest to both sides, with the normalization of relations between China and Japan as the focal point, and the two sides agreed to issue the following joint statement of the two Governments:

China and Japan are neighbouring countries separated only by a strip of water, and there was a long history of

traditional friendship between them. The two peoples ardently wish to end the abnormal state of affairs that has hitherto existed between the two countries. The termination of the state of war and the normalization of relations between China and Japan — the realization of such wishes of the two peoples will open a new page in the annals of relations between the two countries.

The Japanese side is keenly aware of Japan's responsibility for causing enormous damages in the past to the Chinese people through war and deeply reproaches itself. The Japanese side reaffirms its position that in seeking to realize the normalization of relations between Japan and China, it proceeds from the stand of fully understanding the three principles for the restoration of diplomatic relations put forward by the Government of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese side expresses its welcome for this.

Although the social systems of China and Japan are different, the two countries should and can establish peaceful and friendly relations. The normalization of relations and the development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations between the two countries are in the interests of the two peoples, and will also contribute to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the safeguarding of world peace.

(1) The abnormal state of affairs which has hitherto existed between the People's Republic of China and Japan is declared terminated on the date of publication of this statement.

(2) The Government of Japan recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China.

(3) The Government of the People's Republic of China reaffirms that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. The Government of Japan fully understands and respects this stand of the Government of China and adheres to its stand of complying with Article 8 of the Potsdam Proclamation.

(4) The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan have decided upon the establishment of diplomatic relations as from September 29, 1972. The two Governments have decided to adopt all necessary measures for the establishment and the performance of functions of embassies in each other's capitals in accordance with international law and practice and exchange ambassadors as speedily as possible.

(5) The Government of the People's Republic of China declares that in the interest of the friendship between the peoples of China and Japan, it renounces its demand for war indemnities from Japan.

(6) The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan agree to establish durable relations of peace and friendship between the two countries on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence.

In keeping with the foregoing principles and the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Governments of the two countries affirm that in their mutual relations, all disputes shall be settled by peaceful means without resorting to the use or threat of force.



(7) The normalization of relations between China and Japan is not directed against third countries. Neither of the two countries should seek hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region and each country is opposed to efforts by any other country or group of countries to establish such hegemony.

(8) To consolidate and develop the peaceful and friendly relations between the two countries, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan agree to hold negotiations aimed at the conclusion of a treaty of peace and friendship.

(9) In order to further develop the relations between the two countries and broaden the exchange of visits, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan agree to hold negotiations aimed at the conclusion of agreements on trade, navigation, aviation, fishery, etc., in accordance with the needs and taking into consideration the existing non-governmental agreements.

*(Signed)*

**Chou En-lai**

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

*(Signed)*

**Chi Peng-fei**

Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of the  
People's Republic of China  
Peking, September 29, 1972

*(Signed)*

**Kakuei Tanaka**

Prime Minister of  
Japan

*(Signed)*

**Masayoshi Ohira**

Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of Japan

## FOREIGN MINISTER MASAYOSHI OHIRA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN PEKING

*—Pointing Out that with the Normalization of  
Japan-China Relations, the Japan-Chiang  
Treaty Is Declared Terminated*

Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira declared on September 29 in Peking that with the publication of the Joint Statement of the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China, the outstanding question of the normalization of the relations between Japan and China was finally settled, and as from September 29 the abnormal state of affairs between the two countries was declared terminated and diplomatic relations were established between Japan and China. As a result of the normalization of Japan-China relations, the Japan-Chiang treaty has been declared terminated, he pointed out.

The Japanese Foreign Minister was speaking at a press conference he gave on the morning of September 29 after the signing of the joint statement.

Susumu Nikaido, Chief Cabinet Secretary, presided over the press conference which was attended by Chinese and foreign newsmen.

Foreign Minister Ohira said: "After the four-day fruitful talks between the leaders of Japan and China, the Joint Statement of the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China was issued today and the outstanding question of the normalization of relations between Japan and China was finally settled."

He said: "The basic understanding and attitudes of the Japanese and Chinese sides towards the normalization of relations are made clear in the foreword of the joint statement. We believe that the termination of the abnormal state of affairs which had unfortunately long existed between Japan and China, and the establishment of relations of peace and friendship between the two countries will be an important contribution to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the safeguarding of world peace."

Speaking of the joint statement, Foreign Minister Ohira said: "As is stated in Article 1, the abnormal state of affairs between Japan and China is declared terminated today. The concrete expression of this is the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries as from today. About this point, please refer to Article 4.

"Next, about the indispensable prerequisite for the normalization of relations between Japan and China — recognition of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the view of the Japanese Government has been expressed in Article 2.

"In addition, the stand of the Japanese Government on the Taiwan question has been stated in Article 3. The Cairo Declaration stipulates that Taiwan be restored to China and Japan has accepted the Potsdam Proclamation that succeeded the above-mentioned declaration. The

proclamation stipulates in Article 8 that 'the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out.' Therefore, it is only natural for the Japanese Government to adhere to its stand of complying with the Potsdam Proclamation."

The Japanese Foreign Minister said: "Considering the outcome of the unfortunate war between Japan and China in the past and the great losses the Chinese people suffered, we should give frank and appropriate appraisal of the renouncing by the People's Republic of China of its demand for war indemnities as expressed in Article 5."

He said: "Normalization of relations is indeed of important significance, but even more important is that Japan and China with different social systems respect each other's stand and have established durable relations of peace and friendship between them. The principles that such relations between Japan and China should adhere to are included in Article 6, and the reference in Article 8 to the conclusion of a treaty of peace and friendship also reflects the forward-looking attitude of both Governments."

In conclusion, Foreign Minister Ohira said: "The Japanese Government holds that as a result of the normalization of Japan-China relations, the Japan-China peace treaty [the Japan-Chiang treaty — *Hsinhua News Agency* editor.] has lost the meaning of its existence and is declared to be terminated, although this question is not mentioned in the joint statement."

Foreign Minister Ohira also answered questions at the press conference.

(*Hsinhua* dispatch, September 29, 1972)

## A NEW PAGE IN THE ANNALS OF SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS

*Renmin Ribao (People's Daily)* Editorial,  
September 30, 1972

Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of Japan has paid a visit to China at the invitation of Premier Chou En-lai. Chairman Mao Tsetung, the great leader of the Chinese people, met Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and had an earnest and friendly conversation with him. The Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of the two countries conducted earnest and frank talks in a friendly atmosphere all along and attained complete success. The two sides made public a joint statement of the two Governments on September 29, which declared the end of the abnormal state of affairs that had hitherto existed between China and Japan, the establishment of diplomatic relations, and the decision to exchange ambassadors as speedily as possible. The termination of the state of war and the normalization of relations between China and Japan have opened a new page in the annals of relations between the two countries. The Chinese people warmly greet this fruitful result.

That the relations between China and Japan have now been normalized is the result of the efforts jointly made by the Chinese and Japanese peoples over a long period

of time. A long-standing friendship exists between the two peoples. The Japanese militarists' aggression against China brought tremendous disasters to the Chinese people and a great deal of suffering to the Japanese people too. Following Chairman Mao's teachings, the Chinese people make a strict distinction between the broad masses of the Japanese people and the very few militarists, and cherish profound sympathy with the Japanese people who were victimized by war. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, we have all along worked actively for the development of friendly relations with the Japanese people. The Japanese people, too, have always desired friendship with the Chinese people. People of all walks of life and friendly personages in Japan, including far-sighted people in the political, cultural and economic circles, have made continuous and active efforts to promote this friendship. This is the very reason why the friendly contacts and economic and cultural exchanges between the two peoples, far from being interrupted, have continuously developed in the past twenty years and more although the state of war between the two countries was not yet declared terminated. All this has served as a good basis for the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

Adhering to the principle of seeking establishment of normal diplomatic relations with all countries, which are willing to live peacefully with us, on the basis of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit, the Government of the People's Republic of China has unflinchingly persisted for many years in its efforts to improve the relations between China and Japan and to realize the normalization of relations between the two countries. China put forward three prin-

ciples for the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations; these are: the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government of China; Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China; and the "Japan-Taiwan treaty" is illegal and invalid and should be abrogated. These principles have won broader and broader sympathy and support in Japan. As a popular demand and a general trend of events, the normalization of relations between China and Japan has become an irresistible historic tide. After the Tanaka cabinet was formed, it declared the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations as its prime task; it expressed "full understanding" of China's three principles for the normalization of relations between the two countries, and resolutely took many practical steps for solving the question of relations between the two countries. The Government of China has made timely and positive response. Through the fruitful talks, the leaders of China and Japan have finally realized the normalization of relations between the two countries. This is a big event long aspired after by the Chinese and Japanese peoples, an event that gladdens the hearts of the people of Asia and the world.

In the joint statement of the two Governments, the Chinese Government reaffirms that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. The Government of Japan fully understands and respects this stand of the Government of China and adheres to its stand of complying with Article 8 of the Potsdam Proclamation. This once again affirmed the fact that Taiwan has been returned to China since World War

II. This is a hammer blow to those who trumpet the fallacies of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan."

The joint statement of China and Japan declares that the two sides agree to establish durable relations of peace and friendship between the two countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and to hold negotiations aimed at the conclusion of a treaty of peace and friendship. It is entirely possible for China and Japan to live together in friendship despite their different social systems. So long as they seek common ground on major points while reserving differences on minor points in the spirit of mutual understanding, all problems between the two countries can be solved. With the normalization of relations between the two countries and the development of their good-neighbourly and friendly relations, there will certainly be more frequent friendly contacts between the two peoples, further expansion of economic and commercial ties, and broader cultural exchanges. All this conforms to the fundamental interests of the two peoples.

China and Japan are two countries in the Asia-Pacific region, separated by a sea. Peaceful and friendly coexistence between China and Japan is not only in the interest of the peoples of our two countries but also in the interest of the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region. The normalization of relations between China and Japan is not directed against third countries. The Governments of the two countries solemnly declare in the joint statement that neither of the two countries should seek hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region and each country is opposed to efforts by any other country or group of countries to establish such hegemony. Doubtlessly, the establishment and development of good-neighbourly and

friendly relations between China and Japan will greatly contribute to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the safeguarding of world peace.

The Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao says: **"The Japanese and Chinese peoples are good friends."** China and Japan have a history of contacts for two thousand years. Despite the disasters and sufferings resulting from wars in half a century, the Chinese and Japanese peoples have over long years forged a profound friendship between them. Time is marching on, and history is forging ahead. Looking forward to the future, we are deeply convinced that Sino-Japanese friendship has broad prospects for development and that the two great peoples of China and Japan can surely surmount all obstacles and remain friendly to each other from generation to generation. We are determined to make concerted efforts with the Japanese people for the continuous development of Sino-Japanese friendly relations.

中日关系史的新篇章

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外文出版社出版（北京）

1972年（32开）第一版

编号：（英）3050—2457

00020

3—E—1288P



