**ASSESSMENT** RELATIONS 1975-1988

> EDITED BY L BERNARDITA REYES CHURCHILL

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#### **PREFACE**

In the mid-seventies, Philippine foreign policy took a dramatic break from its previous stance of close alliance with the United States and the western world. On 23 May 1975, President Marcos delivered a foreign policy speech which shifted Philippine foreign policy "to help the country survive the current security crisis in Asia" in light of the American debacle in Vietnam. Following the guidelines set by this new policy, diplomatic relations were established with socialist countries, including with the People's Republic of China on June 9, 1975.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines merely re-established the tradition of close political, economic and cultural relations which go back several centuries, as early as the T'ang dynasty in the l0th century. The relations were interrupted after 1949 because of geopolitical and ideological considerations. Nevertheless, the role of the Chinese and Chinese mestizos in nation-building has been generally

accepted.

Since the resumption of formal diplomatic relations in 1975, both China and the Philippines have moved very actively to open up avenues of understanding and cooperation through exchanges in the economic, commercial, political and cultural fields. On the personal level, meaningful friendships have been forged as both peoples have appreciated the common heritage they continue to share.

In October 1987 a group of concerned Filipinos with special interests (and passion) for China and the Chinese people and culture and Philippine-Chinese relations formed the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies (PACS) with the following objectives:

- (l) To promote, encourage and support academic studies and research on China and the Chinese, and Philippine-China relations, through discussions, lectures, seminars, publications and international exchange;
- (2) To identify the gaps in research subjects and methodology and stimulate work in these areas;
  - (3) To set up a resource center for the documentation and

collection of information and materials in order to develop serious interest in Chinese Studies:

(4) To establish and maintain contact with other professional, national and international organizations in the interest of

mutual enlightenment in the field of Chinese studies;

(5) To offer to government, business and other sectors, when deemed appropriate by its executive board, assistance in research and education, policy formulation and program development that may lead to a better understanding of China and the Chinese:

- (6) To assist persons engaged or interested in Chinese studies with respect to opportunities for work or studies and similar information, such as the strengths of various training institutions and the availability of grants and scholarships here and abroad:
- (7) To encourage the establishment of Chinese studies as part of the curriculum or as a program of study in the different institutions of learning; and

(8) To promote understanding of the Philippines and Filipi-

nos among the Chinese.

In line with these objectives, PACS co-sponsored, with the China Studies Program of De La Salle University, a symposium on "Philippine-China Relations, 1975-1988: An Assessment," on April 5, 1988. The symposium, held shortly before the official state visit of President Corazon C. Aguino to the People's Republic of China, examined bilateral relations between the two countries on several fronts--economic and commercial, science and technology, and cultural. The most exciting part of the symposium was the session on "The Chinese in the Philippines" which discussed some of the problems affecting illegal Chinese immigration.

PACS hopes that its sincere efforts will result in better understanding and friendly relations between China and the

Philippines and the Chinese and Filipino peoples.

Bernardita R. Churchill **History Department** University of the Philippines

February II, 1989

#### **OPENING ADDRESS**

DR. LOURDES R. QUISUMBING Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports

Bro. Andrew, Mr. Yu Mingsheng, members of the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies, faculty and students of the China Studies Program at De La Salle, organisers of this symposium and friends. I welcome this founding of the newly organised Philippine Association for Chinese Studies because I find your program and the objectives very worthwhile. These objectives, such as the promotion and encouragement of further academic studies, exchange of scholars, identifying research topics and finding out the gaps in research, setting up a resource center, establishing and maintaining contacts for the documentation and the collection of materials on China, the Chinese people and Chinese Studies, assisting people engaged and interested in China Studies for further opportunities in studies or in work, encouraging the establishment of Chinese Studies as part of the curriculum, promoting understanding of the Philippines and of China--the two countries, their peoples and their cultures--are highly laudable. As a member and official of the government, I welcome the founding of this association--this scholarly group which will hopefully render a more independent view, a more objective assessment, a more holistic view of the relationship between China and the Philippines to us in government. We hope that your assessment and your insight will provide us with a more basic and a more scholarly understanding and insight of the mutual relations between the two countries because we in government tend to be more protocol-conscious than substance-oriented. We would like to see beyond the protocol so that it is not simply an opening point in the relationship between the two countries but that this door, once opened would lead us to a more substantive understanding. We, therefore, would like you to provide us in government with a better insight into more appropriate measures and strategies to take in developing the mutual relations of the two countries. I find this very relevant and meaningful now that our President is going on an official visit to China and hope that she gets equipped

with the right views not only on protocol but on substance. I look forward, therefore, to the Philippine Association of Chinese Studies to do this quickly--to provide her with the necessary

equipment with which to go to China.

For me in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, I look to the founding of this scholarly group with great optimism because I think there is a need to review the content of our elementary and secondary school curriculum, the textbooks that we have been producing, the attitudes we have been nurturing and to look at this with a very close scrutiny to find out whether we are actually disseminating the right concepts, ideas, facts and attitudes to the Filipino children. It also is very relevant to me in the light of the fact that our new Constitution and the Department have declared Spanish as an optional subject. There has to be something to take the place of Spanish. We should not downgrade the importance of foreign language offerings. It has been said that we have relegated culture to the background because we have discouraged the offering of foreign languages. This is not true. It is just that Spanish is a language being offered optionally--and there is no reason why Chinese could not be considered as a foreign language. The more reason there is to look at Chinese more than twice or three times because this is a language which is a world language and this is a language of ancient civilization, of present importance and, I am sure of, very great relevance for the future.

I also welcome the fact that De La Salle University is placing more importance on its China Studies Program. I understand the Program was started several years ago with the support of the United Board of Christian Higher Education in Asia. I am glad that La Salle has pursued this with vigor and that it has opened its doors even more to many alternatives in making China Studies more exciting, more fulfilling and more practical. I also welcome this symposium and I wish it were attended by more people than are present now. Of course the people present now are of caliber and of quality but I think we need to disseminate this kind of symposium. This is just the beginning of a series, I hope, and should be available to many people in the academe, in business, in the civic-cultural sectors—everywhere in the country.

Please send a copy of the proceedings to my staff in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports because I do not want them to lag behind, especially when it comes to knowledge and understanding of China. I hope and I look forward to the time when there will really be a lot of this research, these scholarly studies, this holistic assessment of the different types of relations between China and the Philippines, including science and technology, trade and industry, culture and education.

Brother Andrew himself has mentioned how important it was to be able to visit China. It was very important for me, too. I went to China twice--in 1982 and 1987--and the five years made a lot of difference. It made us look at China with envy for the way in which such a large country could bring about change in a holistic manner, in a total manner and why we in the Philippines, knowing the desired change that we want, cannot seem to bring it about. We were wondering what is the impetus behind the Chinese will and what is the genius of their government and their people who can bring about total change when they want it. We still look to the Chinese for inspiration on this matter. Going to China, of course, removes a lot of cobwebs that we had and a lot of notions that were really wrong. It emphasized and enhanced the bonds that exist between China and the Philippines--the bonds of traditional friendship, that bond of affinity, of blood ties, of cultural sameness, of sharing from the past to the present. Love of Philippine culture can be traced to Chinese roots. So, going to China is like discovering the roots within us and inspiring us to look for avenues of growth. I do hope that the series of symposia will enhance further the ties between the two countries, will lead to a mutual understanding of affinities and of the strengths of both countries and will also lead to further acceptance of the differences that exist between the two countries whether they be political, ideological and cultural, for these differences will also be part of the understanding to agree, to disagree, to accept each other whatever is common and whatever is different. I think this is a basic value and attitude behind the understanding of the two countries--this respect for each other, whatever the similarities and differences, a policy of non-interference. Even for those who have gone to

China, and for those of us who have known China through studies or through friends and relatives; for those of us who are still groping for an understanding of this mysterious and attractive country which has always been an attraction for the whole world, (the Forbidden City and all that); for those of us who have been able to enter the doors of China and for those of us who still want to go to China to understand it better, the study of China will always be a great opportunity and a challenge. It will always be exciting and adventurous. The need to know and discover China more fully remains in the light of the role of China, its tasks, its present role in modern history and, especially, its future role in the history of Asia and of the whole world.

Therefore, let me close by saying that I am very happy that such an event is taking place--the founding of an association like yours and the starting of a series of scholarly symposia and studies to make us better understand and appreciate a great country like China.

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## YU MINGSHENG Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Philippines

Your Excellency Lourdes Quisumbing, Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports,

Respected Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, President of De La Salle University,

Respected Dr. Bernardita Churchill, Moderator of the Symposium,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just before President Corazon C. Aquino visits China, I feel greatly honoured and happy to have the opportunity to attend today's symposium on the topic "Philippine-China Relations, 1975-1988: An Assessment," at the invitation of the Philippine Association for China Studies and the China Studies Program of De La Salle University. First of all, I would like to make an explanation that it should be Ambassador Chen Songlu to make the speech at this symposium today, but it happens that he is leaving for China this afternoon to participate in the preparation work for the reception of President Aguino, so I have come in his stead. I would like to review with our friends the friendly relations between China and the Philippines since the two countries established diplomatic relations nearly 13 years ago, and explore how to further develop the friendly relations between the two countries. I believe that this kind of symposium will help enhance our mutual understanding and promote the friendly relations between our two countries.

China and the Philippines are close neighbors with only a strip of water in between. As early as more than one thousand years ago, the ancestors of our two countries, by braving the waves and defying hardships, began contacts and exchanges of

trade and culture, and thus forged a deep traditional friendship. The peoples of our two countries sympathized and supported each other and wrote a brilliant chapter in the modern history of fighting against the imperialist aggression and striving for national independence. After China and the Philippines established diplomatic relations in 1975, the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries achieved fast and steady development on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The leaders of the two countries exchanged visits many times and enchanced their mutual understanding and friendship. The fruitful cooperation expanded to the fields of industry, agriculture, culture, science and technology, etc. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have signed, one after another, the Long-term Trade Agreement, the Agreement on Cooperation of Science and Technology, the Cultural Agreement, the Agreement on Civil Aviation and Transportation, etc. The two countries also signed the Agreement on Postal Parcel, the Agreement on Broadcast Cooperation and the Agreement on Exchange of News. Since 1982, in order to further strengthen the mutual understanding between the two peoples, China and the Philippines have established four pairs of sister cities. They are: Hangzhou and Baguio, Xiamen and Cebu, Guangzhou and Manila, and Shanghai and Metro Manila.

After the new Philippine Government headed by President Aquino was established in February 1986, the friendly relations and cooperation continued to be consolidated and developed. At the turning point in the history of the Philippines, the Government of our country gave positive support to the Philippines. When Mrs. Aquino assumed the Presidency, China was one of the earliest countries that sent a message of congratulations to the new Philippine Government. In March 1986, Minister Zhu Muzhi led the Chinese Cultural Delegation to visit the Philippines according to the scheduled plan and signed with Vice President Laurel the Executive Program of the Sino-Philippine Cultural Agreement for 1986-1987. The Chinese Cultural Delegation was the first foreign delegation to visit the Philippines after the establishment of the new Philippine Government. In June of the same year, Vice President Laurel was in-

vited to visit China, and in October Vice Premier Tian Jiyun was invited to visit the Philippines. In November last year, Her Excellency, Lourdes Quisumbing, led a delegation to visit China, and signed, on behalf of the Philippine Government the Executive Program of the Sino-Philippine Cultural Agreement for 1988-1989. In addition to all these mentioned above, some senators, representatives of Congress, and government officials have also visited China. These visits have enhanced our mutual understanding and promoted the friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

It is worth pointing out that the relations of economic and trade cooperation between China and the Philippines have developed smoothly since the two countries established diplomatic relations. Since 1977, both China and the Philippines have held annual meetings of the Joint Trade Committee, alternately in Beijing and Manila, and signed annual trade protocols to arrange import and export of major commodities between the two countries. China's major items of export to the Philippines are crude oil, steel billet, chemical raw materials, machinery products, canned goods and products of light industry and textile. China's major items of import from the Philippines are raw sugar, coconut oil, fertilizer, copper ore, timber, plywood, etc. The trade volume of the two countries has increased continuously. In 1987, the total volume of trade between the two countries reached US \$380 million, an increase of eight times as compared with that of 1974 which was valued at US \$46 million, before the two countries established diplomatic relations. Meanwhile, the economic cooperation between the two countries has developed somewhat in recent years. Since 1981, both sides have signed 16 contracts with the total value of US \$190 million, out of which 13 are project contracts and three are contracts of labor service cooperation. Mutual investment is also being carried out.

The cooperation of science and technology between China and the Philippines is satisfactory. Since the two Governments signed the Agreement on Cooperation of Science and Technology in March 1978, both sides have held eight meetings on the cooperation of science and technology alternately in the capitals

of the two countries, and signed eight protocols in this regard with over ll0 items of cooperation. Through the exchanges of scientific and technical personnel, both countries have shared their respective fruits of science and technology. This has played

a certain role in promoting each other's economy.

Wide-ranging cultural exchanges between China and the Philippines are being carried out continuously. These exchanges involve music, dancing, puppet show, cinema, fine arts, broadcast and television, sports, hygiene, scientific research, religion, education, etc. In 1986, both sides had 53 items of exchanges, with 384 people involved, and in 1987, both sides had 62 items of exchanges, with over 380 people involved. In addition, many extra items have been included in this year's exchanges. In 1987 there were 40 extra items of exchanges with 312 people involved.

Friends, China and the Philippines are developing countries. We had similar historical experiences in the past and now we are facing the common task of safeguarding peace and developing our economies. Our two countries have no conflicts of fundamental interests. Therefore, we should support each other politically and have close cooperation economically. Strengthening the friendly relations and cooperation between China and the Philippines in the fields of politics, economy, culture, science and technology is not only in the interest of our two countries, but also conducive to the peace and stability in the Southeast Asian region. It is the sincere wish of the Chinese Government and people to consolidate and develop Sino-Philippine relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. It is a matter, of course, that because of the difference of social and economic systems and ideologies between China and the Philippines, there still exist some problems in the bilateral relations, whose solutions require of both sides to continue to exert efforts.

1. On the Taiwan issue. According to the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and the Philippines, which was signed by the two Governments on June 9, 1975, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of

China as the sole legal government of China, and fully understands and respects the Chinese Government's position that there is but one China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. We noticed that the new government of the Philippines reiterated many times that it would continue to implement the "one China" policy. However, in recent years there has occurred, every now and then, incidents violating the principles of the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and the Philippines. Therefore, on December 17 last year, President Aquino signed Executive Order No. 313, prohibiting Philippine government officials to visit Taiwan or receive officials from Taiwan, and stipulating that no official activities with Taiwan should be carried out without permission · from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. We express our appreciation of this. The Chinese Government's position and policy on the Taiwan issue are clear-cut: those countries which have established diplomatic relations with China must not maintain official relations of any form with Taiwan, but we have no objection to their having purely people-to-people contacts with Taiwan. We believe that as long as the Governments of China and the Philippines strictly abide by the principles of the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries, any attempts to sabotage Sino-Philippine friendship will come to no avail.

2. On the problem of trade imbalance between the two countries. Since China and the Philippines established diplomatic relations, trade relations between the two countries have developed continuously, but there exists quite a big balance of trade in favor of China. The main reason for it is that we supply the Philippines a large quantity of crude oil. There are also other reasons, e.g., some Philippine products do not satisfy China's needs, while the prices of some products are too high. In order to lessen the unfavorable balance for the Philippines, the Chinese side has made great efforts and adopted some effective measures to expand import from the Philippines. For instance, in June 1986, our country sent a big trade delegation to visit the Philippines, and signed contracts with its counterparts to purchase at one time \$40 million worth of goods from the Philip-

pines, thus realizing the rough balance of trade between the two countries that year. But for the sake of further altering the trade imbalance situation, both sides must exert common efforts. On the part of China, we are willing to explore with the Philippines ways and means to expand the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries in the spirit of seeking truth from facts and looking forward to the future. We believe that with the growth of our respective economies, the relations of economic and trade cooperation between our two countries will surely be developed continuously.

3. On the issue of people-to-people contacts between our two countries--Since China implemented the policy of opening up to the outside world in 1979, the friendly contacts and exchanges of visits between the people of China and the people of various countries in the world have been increasing yearly. At the same time, the number of Chinese citizens who go abroad to visit relatives, for tourism and other private affairs is increasing constantly. China and the Philippines are friendly close neighbors. There exists a history of friendly exchanges and relationship between our two peoples. Just like what Secretary Quisumbing said: "China and the Philippines are friends and brothers." Therefore such realistic issues as visiting each other's relatives are unavoidable. Proceeding from maintaining the friendship between our two countries, the Chinese Government has always provided convenience for the peoples of the two countries to have contacts with each other, because it not only promotes the exchanges between our two peoples, but also enhances mutual understanding and friendship. For those Chinese citizens who go abroad, visit relatives and for tourism, the usual practice of our country is to strengthen education for them, require them to abide by the laws and orders of the countries being visited and to return to China within the allowed period of stay. We are not in favor of overstaying by Chinese citizens in the countries they visit. In recent years, some Chinese citizens who came to the Philippines to visit relatives and for tourism have indeed overstayed in the Philippines. There are many reasons for overstaying Chinese citizens in the Philippines. There are reasons from the Chinese side as well as from the Philippine side. In