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Sino-British Friendship

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I WELCOME the opportunity to write a few words on Sino-British friendship on the eve of the Coronation of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The sentiments which I may express, personal though they be, will, I am sure, be shared by all of my compatriots. It augurs well for the future that the Coronation should occur at this auspicious moment when the relations between China and the British Empire are definitely on a more cordial basis, and when as never before have the two peoples a better understanding of the difficulties which confront them respectively and the responsibilities which they shoulder together in the maintenance of world peace. I am firmly convinced that China and Great Britain, occupying more than half of the world's surface

and with a population which comprises half of the total inhabitants of the globe, are factors upon which the future of the world largely depends.

We have had our differences in the past. But in human as well as in international affairs what counts most is sincerity and justice. The British people are conservative and love traditions which at times are misunderstood by other peoples. To me, the sterling quality of the British race is their sportsmanship. They play the game, whether it be on the recreation ground, in the field of battle, in national or international politics. Their readiness to give and take is the secret which preserves for them their place in the sun. These qualities have become more and more appreciated by the Chinese people, because from time immemorial they have been taught these same virtues by their saints and sages, and it is these qualities also which have preserved them intact as a nation for more than five thousand years. With these things in common it is little wonder, therefore, that we should witness lately a vast improvement in Sino-British relations.

We are not ungrateful for the sympathetic interest evinced, and material assistance rendered, by the British people towards the herculean task in which we are engaged today in achieving economic reconstruction and political stability. It is indeed gratifying to note that the British Government and people have begun to realize that in acceding to China's aspirations and in rendering such assistance as is needed, they are strengthening one of the weak links in the chain of peace. A weak China is a liability, but a strong and prosperous China is a great asset to world tranquillity, in which Great Britain is primarily interested.

It may be said of the Chinese and British peoples alike that they "prefer butter to cannons," that they want no other's lands, and that they desire peace at home and abroad. China with her teeming millions and practically inexhaustible natural resources offers the best markets for the surplus goods of the industrial nations, as well as an outlet for the world's frozen assets. Arrangements can be made by which China's immense man-power and potentialities may be made accessible to those peoples who are less favored by nature in these respects. The existing close commercial bond and spiritual union between China and Great Britain exemplifies that it is to the mutual advantage of two peoples to have their relations conducted on a basis of good-will and cooperation.

In fine, I wish to extend to the British people all the world over my best felicitations at the Coronation of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. May their reign be long and prosperous, and may the memorable event which shortly is to be inaugurated mark a new milestone in Sino-British relations.