

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND AT BANQUET
HOSTED BY THE PEOPLES' GOVERNMENT OF GUANGXI ZHUANG
AUTONOMOUS REGION, 21 JANUARY 1988

Vice Chairman Wang Rung Zhen,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your kind words welcoming us to the lovely and famous city of Guilin. We appreciate very much the warm and friendly reception that you have given us.

I am told that the finest mountains and rivers under Heaven are to be found in the Guilin area. The late Chen Yi, your distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs, is to have said that he would rather be a human being in Guilin than immortal in Heaven.

Therefore, I am especially looking forward to our boat-trip tomorrow on the Li River, described by a Chinese poet more than 1.000 years ago as "a green silk belt, with mountains that are emerald hairpins".

We shall also visit the Reed Flute Cave. After seeing it, I know it will be difficult to find words to praise it. I have in mind your legend that tells us that a scholar once tried to write a poem worthy of the cave's beauty. It happened that he turned to stone before he could find the adequate words.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the decision of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region four years ago to further develop the tourist industry of Guilin should therefore rest on a firm foundation. With promising perspectives for the people of your Region. Your ambitious plans for making Guilin a multi-purpose city for tourism - a setting for international conferences, vacation resorts and sightseeing - will make Guilin a centre for cultural and economic interflow.

I wish you every success in achieving the goals that you have set in the 7th 5-year plan period (1986-90). Goals including reform of the economic structure, development of service trade and development of industry and agriculture in the region. Doing this hand-in-hand with a well-planned development of tourism is a wise course. A wise pathway to sustained and coordinated economic development that will also promote your parallel goal of improving the welfare of your people.

Dear Chinese friends, I have earlier this week been in Beijing. Secretary General Zhao Ziyang, Acting Prime Minister Li Peng and Chairman Deng Xiaoping have told me how important the open door policy is for China's policy of modernization and reform.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, thank you for opening Guilin's door to my delegation and myself. Opening your door to international

tourism will enrich the lives of countless visitors and friends of China from abroad.

Let me propose a toast to you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and to our Chinese friends present this evening. Ganbei!