



20 September 2021

H.E. Zheng Zeguang, Ambassador
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
47 Portland Place
London W1B-1JL

Your Excellency:

May we present compliments to Your Excellency on his appointment, and to the government, and people of China for our continuing good relations.

Colonia has had a history of friendly relations with China dating from the late 1970s, and early 1980s. Our Representative Lord (Harold) Wilson presented the Colonia position to Chou Enlai, and later to Zhou Ziyang. He invited China to participate in the development of the hydrocarbon resources in our territory. At that time, Chou Enlai explained that China had no interest in the South China Sea. Zhou Ziyang confirmed that position. Henry Kissinger confirmed that position.

HM King John, Head of State, has suggested that maintaining high-level contact between our neighbor nations is a good tradition to continue. The leadership of past generations should continue to be the model for close bi-lateral ties today.

In the early 1980s it was our pleasure to present our gift of appreciation to the government and people of China with a seasonal Christmas Tree to the Embassy of China in London, over a three year period.

From the 2007, Lady Susan Griffiths, our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, enjoyed warm relations with Ambassador Fu Ying, and from 2010 with Ambassador Liu Xiaoming.

We seek to resume the friendly relations that we have enjoyed between China and Colonia. We propose that to advance our commercial relations at this time

will benefit both our nations. Our desire to develop bi-lateral ties should be the strategic objective serving the interests of both our countries. The demonstration of our mutual friendly relationship will have the added benefit to enhance regional security and prosperity.

Our two nations should adhere to mutual understanding and respect, in order to support our core economic and security interests. HM King John has suggested that our core national interests could include participation in China's Maritime Silk Road Initiative in the South China Sea. HM King John has suggested that such a bilateral economic cooperation within the Maritime Silk Road Initiative could better align our mutual development strategies. The Maritime Silk Road Initiative can focus on joint energy and maritime development. This would demonstrate strategic connectivity and become a model for economic development in the region.

With our past history of good relations with China, it is our desire to resume our relationship of continuing good relations with China.

The status of the Colonia maritime boundaries in the Spratly Islands has been subject to various claims asserted by regional powers since the mid-1970s. These various claims concerned EEZ eligibility, and caused confusion and ambiguity over our maritime boundaries beginning in the 1980s.

The recent ITLOS Tribunal decision has now provided some legal clarification. The Tribunal rejected the other's EEZ eligibilities, and the Chinese claims. We had presented to the Tribunal that the ITLOS Treaty had jurisdiction only over international waters. ITLOS has no jurisdiction within the territorial waters of another state. The Cloma Claim was not within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. The Cloma Claim was the only claim not dismissed by the Tribunal.

We have recently received press reports that China has made a law to require vessels that pass through the South China Sea to register with China.

His Majesty's government is committed to the principle of free passage of vessels thru our waters.

His Majesty's government is also committed to the principle of reciprocity in our international relations. Any favours, benefits, or penalties granted by one state should be reciprocated in kind by the other.

We therefore must strongly protest that China proposes to enforce Chinese laws in our territorial waters. Chinese law does not have jurisdiction in our waters.

It is in keeping with our desire for future good relations, and to forming a strategic economic partnership, that we seek an urgent and satisfactory explanation to this matter.

We look forward to address and resolve this unfortunate state of affairs with Your Excellency as an urgent topic.



Again, please accept our compliments to Your Excellency, and the government and people of China.

Signed this 20th day of September , 2021.


Thomas de Lys
State Council



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