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Message from
Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
of the United Kingdom

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and I would like to send my personal best wishes to the Chinese people and government and to the large Chinese community here in Britain.

Since the 1970s China's reforms have brought more people out of poverty in a shorter time than any other country in history – with profound effects, not just for the one fifth of the world's population who are Chinese but for us all.

Today, the country that for centuries gave the world so many of its most important inventions and accounted for so much of its economic growth has been restored to its position as a great global power – and China's role in the global economy means that we in Britain have a deep interest in its continued stability, prosperity and success.

Built and strengthened through a policy of close dialogue and engagement, our relations today are the best that they have ever been and I would like to give three examples of this.

First, the global economy: I was particularly pleased to work closely with China's leaders on the London summit earlier this year, and China's determination to take its rightful place in international economic governance was welcomed by all on the G20.

Secondly, on climate change: China has set targets for increased

energy-efficiency and renewables to help reduce carbon emissions, raising hope throughout the international community of reaching a workable international pact at Copenhagen that puts the world on a path towards low carbon growth.

Thirdly, trade: in spite of the downturn the EU and China trade more with each other than with anyone else – and I am committed to reaching the bilateral trade target of \$60 billion dollars by 2010.

Developing and maintaining open markets will be crucial to help achieve that goal and for our part Britain will continue to welcome wholeheartedly investment from overseas including from sovereign wealth funds.

Chinese investment in the UK is already exceeding the ambitious targets that Premier Wen and I set at the beginning of this year. I am sure that the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010 will be the largest there has ever been and will do even more to further our shared objectives, from climate change to trade and technological innovation.

So once again, let me send my best wishes to the people of China on this important anniversary. I look forward to growing ties of understanding and co-operation between our two nations in the years ahead. F

RT HON GORDON BROWN MP