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OPENING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR BEESLEY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY
OF CANADA-PRC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Your Excellency, distinguished Directors
of National meteorological services, ladies and gentlemen.
It is indeed an honour to be able to welcome you here for the
signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperative
Meteorological Programmes between the meteorological
administrations of our respective countries.

It could be said that meteorology knows no
walls (even Great Walls), and that the winds and rain and
sunshine that affect our planet are a common heritage we
must try to understand and deal with together. There is
an important link, as well, between cooperation in
meteorology and the development of better environmental
law, nationally and internationally. As we come to understand
and measure atmospheric processes more accurately, so also can
we better understand and control the anthropogenic processes
that give rise to atmospheric or climatic change.

Canada and China are fortunate to have
highly-developed meteorological services that have accumulated
extensive experience in collecting and analysing data
over vast areas of territory and over many years. It is
also fortunate that the good international relations between

our countries, and the high esteem of our meteorological authorities for each other, has enabled these complementary interests to take a concrete form in this Memorandum of Understanding. This understanding and esteem has been particularly manifest in the work carried out by our representatives in the World Meteorological Organization in recent years.

The Memorandum of Understanding will in due course result in specific joint projects to improve the services that can be rendered to the populations of both countries and in improved understanding of problems of a global character. It is, therefore, an instrument of some importance, and I would like to offer my congratulations to those whose efforts have succeeded in negotiating it.