

Report of May 13th Meeting with Members of the North American, Oceanian and Scandinavian Affairs Bureau (NAB), International Department, Communist Party of China (IDCPC)

Sheila Foster, president of the FCCFA, and I arrived at the Capital Hotel in Beijing at about six p.m. on Monday, May 12. We were in China for the May 15 celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (中国人民对外友好协会, Zhongguo Renmin Duiwai Youhao Xiehui, or *Youxie* for short).

That event was held in the Golden Hall of the Great Hall of the People. Mme. Li Xiaolin, president of *Youxie* introduced PRC President Xi Jinping. His speech emphasized the contributions that the friendship movement has made to China's relations with other countries, and China's peaceful intentions.

However, with very little rest, we had a 10:30 Tuesday morning appointment at the offices of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC). I had received an invitation to discuss Canada from JIANG Lin, First Secretary, Bureau of North American, Oceanian and Scandinavian Affairs, IDCPC. She had suggested "*a short meeting with my colleagues. We'd like to hear your views on Canadian economy, Sino-Canada relations and Canadian domestic politics.*"

Jiang Lin is a woman who visited Toronto in 2003 with two members of the Central Committee of the CPC. Bernie Frolic, (York U. political scientist/sinologist) and I attended their talk and then took them to lunch. We met two of them again in Beijing in 2004 in a meeting room in the Wanshou Hotel. At that time they were interested in our views on the upcoming Canadian federal election.

Last February Zheng Xinli, (a leading economic planner) was at U. of T. speaking about China's Economic Reforms. Sitting next to him was Jiang Lin. When we chatted after the talk, she said to get in touch with her on my next visit to Beijing. Then the late invitation from CPAFFC arrived. I e-mailed Jiang after I bought my airline ticket. You have read part of her reply. In a later note she asked who would be with me. Sheila and Bernie. (I knew that Bernie would be in Beijing).





R to L: Jiang Lin, Zhou Rongguo, Deputy Director-General, Zhang Xiaoming, Deputy Division Chief, Lei Xin, Deputy Division Chief, all from North American Bureau

The conversation was wide ranging. It began with questions about Canadians people's attitude toward China, their view that Canada is an energy "superpower" and that China is looking for stable supply and from a variety of sources. Topics such as heavy oil production, the likelihood of the Keystone XL and Northern Gateway pipeline projects ever being built, Canadian limits on Chinese state-owned firms' investment in Albertan and other energy projects. How can we (China) do to improve our image in Canada? Chinese students in Canada, Canadian students in China.

While we are not experts in these areas (Bernie is on Canada-China relations), we did provide reasonably informed answers reflecting a broad range of Canadian opinion.

The meeting lasted about 90 minutes. A very pleasant lunch hosted by Ma Hui, the Director-General of the North American Bureau (who had not participated in the morning meeting). Mr. Ma had not been in Canada in 2003 but was present at the 2004 meeting with Bernie, Jiang Lin and me. At that meeting Ma Hui was described as a young star, apparently an accurate remark.

Bernie Frolic directs training programmes for high level cadres in both Beijing and Shanghai, he has been invited to lecture at (Communist) Party Schools, and he served in the Canadian Embassy for two years. This was the first time he had attended a meeting in one of their buildings, perhaps a small step toward more openness.

Michael Copeland
May 29, 2014

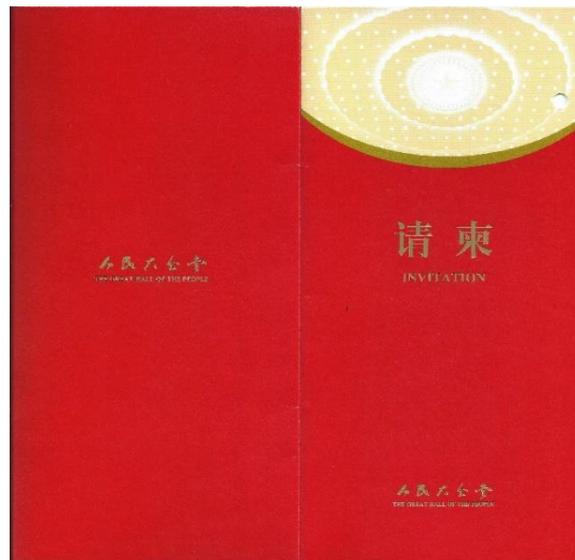
*Cameras (i.e. DSLRs) were not allowed in the Great Hall of the People where the Youxie 60th Anniversary events took place.
(Point & shoot cameras and iPhones were allowed)*

Invitation Card

*For the Celebration in the Golden Hall of the Great Hall
(The card was required for the airport-like security)*

<p>The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Requests the pleasure of your presence At China International Friendship Conference in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the CPAFFC On Thursday, May 15, 2014 From 15:00 to 16:30 hours At The Golden Hall of the Great Hall of the People</p>	<p>谨定于二〇一四年五月十五日 (星期四) 下午三时在北京人民大 会堂金色大厅举办“中国国际友好大 会暨中国人民对外友好协会成立60周 周年纪念活动” 敬 请 光 临 中国人民对外友好协会</p>
<p>Please enter before 14:30 hours with this invitation</p>	<p>请凭请柬于 14:30 前入场</p>
<p>Please be seated in  color zone Dress code: formal / traditional RSVP: 65131014, 13521457873</p>	<p>请在  颜色区域就座 服装: 正装/民族服装 联系电话: 65131014、13521457873</p>
<p>W231 Michael Copeland 迈克尔·科普兰</p>	

Cover of Invitation (reduced)

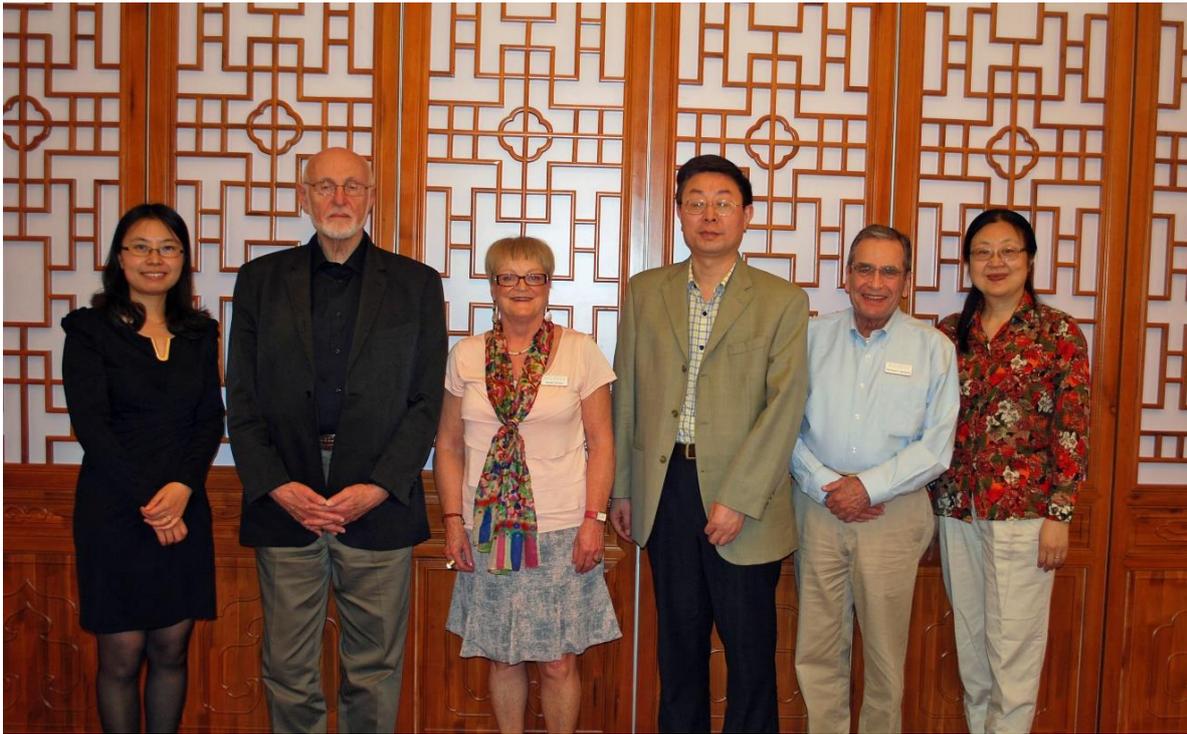


Lunch at NAB with Ma Hui

Cover and menu



Menu	菜单
Cold Dish	迎 宾 冷 盘
Corn with bean curd soup	粟 米 豆 花 羹
Deep fry prawn	脆 皮 大 虾
Chicken ball with peach	桃 仁 鸡 球
Perch in black bean sauce	豉 油 鲈 鱼
Celery with macadamia nut	夏 果 西 芹
Snacks	点 心
Fruit	水 果 拼 盘
International Department Central Committee of CPC	中共中央对外联络部
13 May 2014	2014年5月13日



Zhang Chuan, Bernie Frolic, Sheila Foster, Ma Hui, Michael Copeland, Jiang Lin

Business cards from NAB

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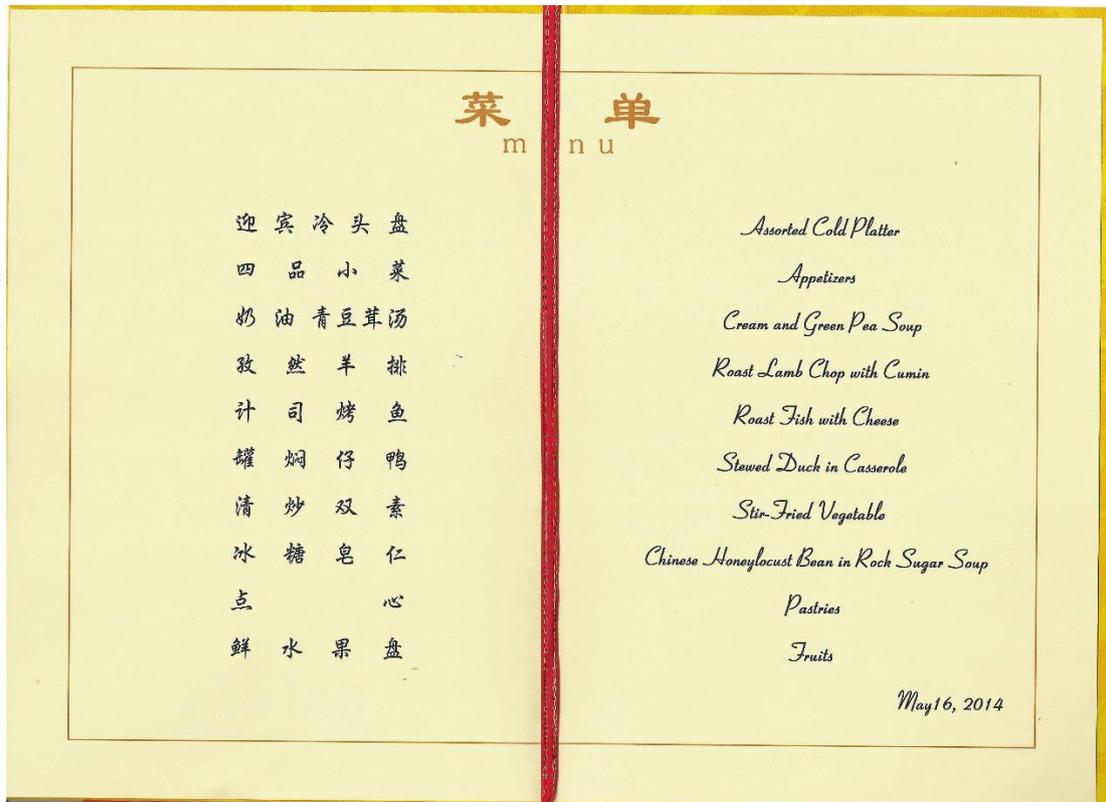
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Diaoyutai State Guest House

Menu and cover



Dinner at Diaoyutai State Guest House

Hosted by Liu Yongfeng and Jia Lei

*Deputy Director, Department of Exernal Security Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Consul-General, Calgary, 2010 to 2013,*

Third Secretary, ESA, MFA





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