**[Video transcription with Chinese translation of Martin Albrow**

**at GCD8 Dinner，House of Lords, 8/12/2023]**

…… (missed) Real-time connections like that, I'll tell you another connection. Also, it seems a coincidence, but when the new ambassador was appointed here, I got to know him. I knew the previous ambassador, Liu Xiaoming, very well, and so met the new ambassador. We talked together and it turned out that he had been a student at the university where I was teaching back in 1987. In that year, 1987, I got married to my wife, Sue, sitting over here, and he was there as a young student, aged about 21. But the coincidences went further because it turned out that he was appointed as a diplomat in Washington in 2002, and we were diplomats - my wife was a diplomat, I was carrying her bag - we were diplomats in Washington from 1999 to 2001. And so, again, we got talking and it turned out that Ambassador Zheng's son went to the same school that our son had been in. Not only that, he was the same age and therefore he went into the same class that my son had been in. So, they know each other's friends; they're in the same class. Those are the kinds of extraordinary connections that somehow happen in life.

But the other thing I think is you can have deeper and longer connections than that. And of course, one of the deepest and longest is the connection between Britain and China, and that's a very complex connection, as everyone here will know. At this moment in time, I'm trying to arrange a connection between Shanghai and our honoured guest here, Doctor QIAN Zhenhua, who's from Shanghai. And I want him to form a reciprocal relationship with a club here in London. My club in London is the RAC, and I'm sure he's got an appropriate club. The RAC has as yet no reciprocal club in mainland China, has one in Hong Kong but not in mainland China. Now, Shanghai and the UK have, of course, a long history together, and a very checkered history. But what amazes me always when I go to China is the graciousness and kindness that Chinese people show to me as a British person. And that is real forgiveness because, if one goes back into Chinese history, we know now, of course, that it's called the century of humiliation, and the United Kingdom played an enormous part in that century of humiliation.

And yet, as I say, I've never met anything other than friendliness and kindness when I go to China. And I think that's a remarkable feature of the Chinese character. So, if I can pay a tribute now, I will to China and, obviously, to Xiangqun here for founding the Global China Academy. It is carrying forward this work of bonding between China and the United Kingdom. Long may the Academy last, and even longer, I trust, relations between China and the United Kingdom. Can I ask people to have a toast? Yes, for China and Britain.

…… (前面漏掉了) 实时连接就像这样，我要告诉你另一个连接。这似乎也是一个巧合，但当新大使在这里被任命时，我开始认识他。我非常了解之前的大使刘晓明，所以也认识了新大使。我们一起交谈，结果发现他曾是我在1987年任教的大学的学生。那一年，也就是1987年，我和我的妻子苏结婚了，她现在就坐在这里，而他当时是一个大约21岁的年轻学生。但巧合还不止于此，因为后来发现他在2002年被任命为华盛顿的外交官，而我们 —— 我的妻子是外交官，我负责帮她拿包 —— 我们在1999年到2001年间也是华盛顿的外交官。于是，我们又聊了起来，结果发现郑大使的儿子进了我们儿子曾经就读的同一所学校。不仅如此，他和我们儿子同龄，因此他进了我儿子所在的同一个班。因此，他们认识彼此的朋友；他们前后脚在同一个班。这些就是生活中偶然发生的那种非凡的联系。

但我认为，你可以拥有比这更深更久远的联系。当然，最深最长久的之一就是英国和中国之间的联系，这是一个非常复杂的联系，如在座的各位所知。目前，我正在尝试在上海和我们尊贵的客人，来自上海的钱振华博士之间建立联系。我希望他能与伦敦的一个俱乐部建立互惠关系。我在伦敦的俱乐部是RAC，我相信他也有一个合适的俱乐部。RAC目前在中国大陆尚无互惠俱乐部，香港有一个，但中国大陆没有。现在，上海和英国当然有着悠久的共同历史，而且是非常复杂的历史。但每当我去中国，总是惊讶于中国人民对我这个英国人所表现出的亲切和友好，这是真正的宽恕，因为如果回顾中国历史，我们现在当然知道，它被称为“屈辱的世纪”，而英国在那个世纪的屈辱中扮演了巨大的角色。

然而，正如我所说，每当我去中国，我遇到的都是友好和亲切。我认为这是中国性格的一个显著特点。所以，如果我现在可以向中国致敬，我会这样做。当然，也要向这里的向群致敬，因为她创立了全球中国学术院。它正在推动中国和英国之间的联系工作。愿学术院长存，原中和英之间的关系将更加持久。我请大家举杯，为了中国和英国。