

# Anhui greets Md. group with gongs, fireworks

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Hefei, China—Gongs were clanging, drums beating and hundreds of firecrackers were exploding when Governor Hughes arrived here yesterday afternoon.

He is heading a 15-member Maryland state delegation to China's Anhui Province, but the reception here might have been for the leader of a small but economically important country, an industrial powerhouse, and that, in fact, is about how Anhui sees Maryland.

Zhang Jinsu, the Anhui provincial governor, expressed his province's interest almost immediately in a broad series of economic, scientific, technical and other exchanges that will enable it to accelerate its development under China's very ambitious modernization program.

While noting that Anhui has a population of 48 million, nearly 12 times that of Maryland, Mr. Zhang praised the American state's industrial and agricultural development as a source of ideas, if not an exact model, for his province.

Both sides have a series of proposals for cooperation in different fields to discuss in the next three days, but Mr. Zhang was already forecasting extensive progress in developing the year-old relationship between Maryland and Anhui during this visit.

Although Governor Hughes remained circumspect—no big, multimillion dollar contracts were expected during this trip, and Maryland sees China trade as a long-term effort—academic and business leaders on the delegation reported considerable progress from the first five days in Peking and in preliminary contacts in Hefei.

"I don't have a signed contract in my briefcase, but we have made important contacts that will lead to some business, and perhaps a great deal of business," said John F. Dealy, president of Fairchild Industries, who talked with Chinese officials in Peking about aircraft production, satellite construction and related fields.

John S. Toll, president of the University of Maryland, said that agreements had been reached with the elite University of Science and Technology here and with Peking University, also one of China's most prestigious, for academic and scientific exchanges. Dr. Richard S. Ross, dean of the medical faculty of the Johns Hopkins University, concluded similar understandings with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences for cooperation in genetics research and bioengineering.

"We made a lot of progress, and the more I see, the more I am convinced that we will be learning as much as we are teaching," Dr. Toll remarked.

The value that China places on these contacts with Maryland was clear yesterday.

Deng Xiaoping, the country's senior vice premier, received the Marylanders in the Great Hall of the People in Peking along with Wan Li, the former Anhui governor who is now in the top leadership as a vice premier.

Then the state delegation was warmly received here by provincial officials and several hundred cheering schoolchildren.

"I don't think anyone in the Maryland delegation has ever received a reception like that," Governor Hughes remarked later. "I know I never have."

Gongs, drums and firecrackers, traditional instruments to welcome an important guest, were augmented by explosive charges simulating the 19-gun salute that Wan Li received when he visited Annapolis last September at the head of the Anhui provincial delegation.

But much of the welcome was spontaneous: Two little girls in a park presenting freshly picked flowers to Mrs. Hughes and her daughter, Beth; crowds of several hundred that first gathered to stare but broke into applause when the delegation visited the main department store; the people who came forward to practice their English despite all the warnings to beware of foreigners.

Vice Premier Deng had stressed the importance from the Chinese view of such contacts, praising Maryland and Anhui for taking the lead in establishing their special relationship and asking for further state-level contacts.

Vice Premier Deng and Governor Hughes quickly established the same easy relationship that the Maryland governor has with Wan Li, who was the delegation's patron in Peking, opening the doors of the Chinese bureaucracy at a very high level for the Maryland businessmen.

"With the governor as head of the delegation," Mr. Dealy said, "we are seeing the people who make decisions, and we are getting in with our proposals right away, not after four trips and a lot of wasted time . . . if that is the way political understanding and goodwill work, then it is a good way to do business."

Governor Hughes expressed satisfaction with the first stage of the delegation's visit in Peking, saying that the businessmen in the delegation had made important contacts that will be followed up later, and he was touched by the warmth of the reception here.

"We have been looking forward to this visit for more than a year," he said, "but it goes beyond anything we expected."

The delegation will hold two days of talks here, visiting local industry, farms and schools before going to Yellow Mountain, one of China's most famous scenic spots, at the end of the week.