

■ **China ties: 30 years on**

'We value friendship with KL'

29/05/04

■ **From Hardev Kaur in Beijing**
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CHINA appreciates that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi chose China as the first country outside Asean to visit since assuming office.

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said yesterday this demonstrated the value Malaysia places on friendly relations with China. "Your visit is of great significance," he said, reminding his audience that Abdullah had also visited China last year before becoming Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister.

"We know each other, and it is a great pleasure to meet you again," he said at the start of bilateral talks at the Great Hall of the People.

Abdullah is on a five-day official visit to China, which also marks the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. But contacts between Malaysia and China can be traced back 600 years.

In response, Abdullah expressed his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality extended to the delegation and said he was "happy to be back here again".

Abdullah noted that it was not the first visit for many members of the delegation, "and for myself I am happy that I am coming

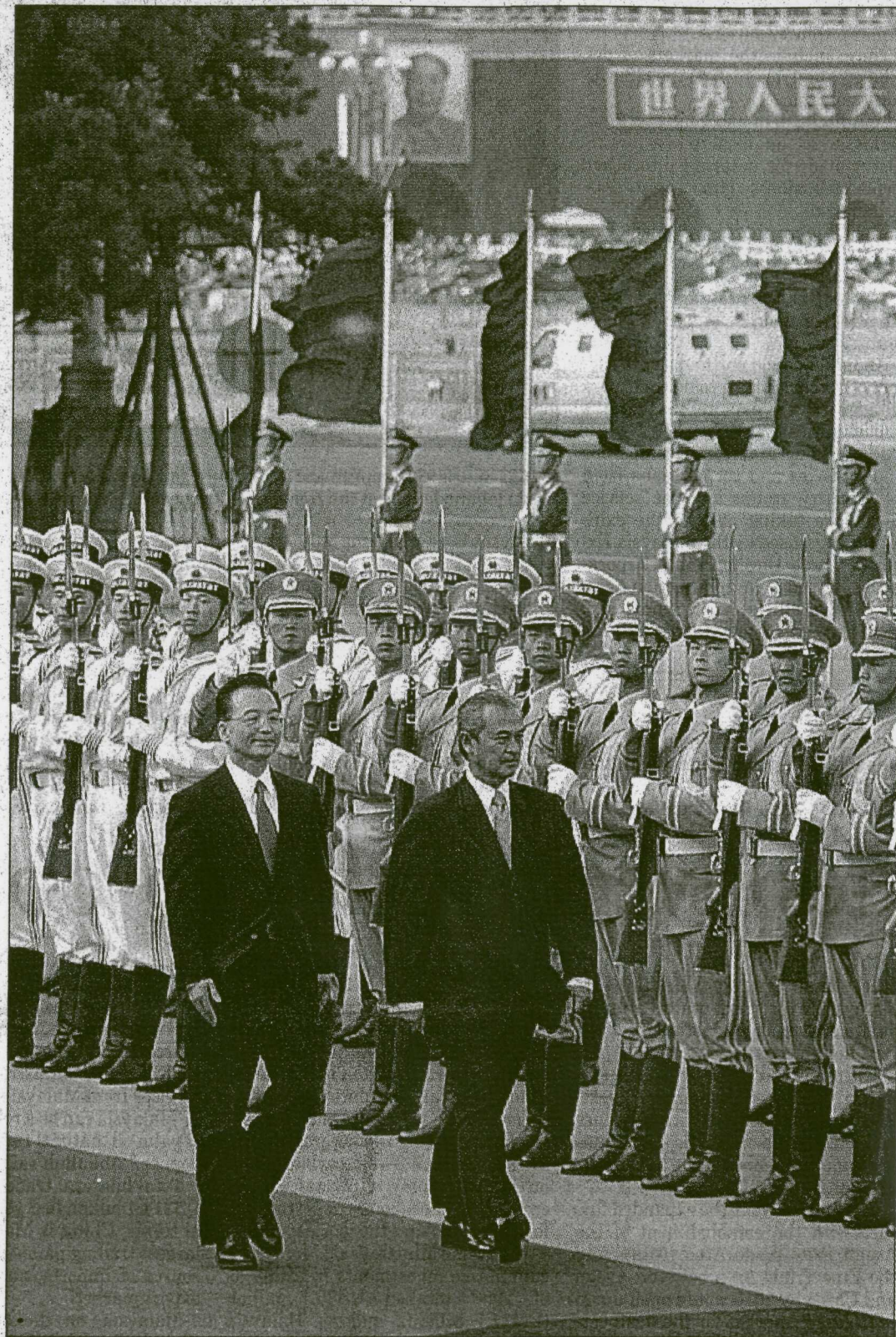
here again in a different capacity".

"I am happy to meet you. And I know that this meeting will further expand our bilateral relations and strengthen economic, political and social co-operation."

Ministers and senior members of the Chinese Government attended the bilateral talks. The two Prime Ministers later witnessed the signing of four memorandums of understanding between the two Governments and six memorandums of agreement between the private sectors of the two countries.

The MoUs between the two Governments are in education, diplomacy and international relations; on the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers; Sanitary and Phytosanitary Co-operation; and between the Chinese Association of Mayors and the Malaysia-China Business Council.

The memorandums of agreement are with Pharma Niaga in pharmaceuticals; Pati Herba for a research and development centre in Biovalley; a group of Malaysian companies for the 500Kv "Missing Link" project in Malaysia; the handover of a High-Energy X-ray accelerator from Nuctech Company to University Technology Malaysia; and two by Astro with China International Television Corporation and



WELCOME: Abdullah and Wen reviewing a guard of honour at Tiananmen Square yesterday. — AP picture