

DEMOCRACY IN A

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It is impossible to do justice in a short article to the feelings of excitement, curiosity and wonder which gripped Van Zyl Slabbert and I when we were invited to visit Mainland China towards the end of last year. A host of images, events and a feeling of mystery crowded in as we made a very long journey to Beijing.

Our journey to China actually started in Dakar. It was there that the Chinese ambassador wrote a report of the conference and mentioned the work of IDASA. This was followed up when I was in Zimbabwe and called on the Chinese ambassador to that country. We were the guests of the Chinese Association for International Understanding.

From the moment they met us at the airport until they saw us off again 10 days later, they displayed a warmth and a generosity which exceeded our every expectation. To visit for the first time a country which has 22% of the world's population and has a civilisation dating back thou-

Drs. Slabbert and Boraine make historic visit to Beijing, China

...ule of meetings, interviews and discussions, time was also made to see some of the wonder of the Forbidden City, the Imperial Palace, the Summer Palace and a visit to the

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