



KOREA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE BY PRIME MINISTER IL KWON CHUNG
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND PRIME MINISTER HAROLD
HOLT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

9TH APRIL, 1967

At the invitation of His Excellency Il Kwon Chung, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, the Right Honourable Harold Holt, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia paid an official visit to the Republic of Korea from 6th to 9th April, 1967.

Prime Minister Holt was accompanied by Mrs. Holt, Sir Laurence McInture, Deputy Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, Mr. D.J. Munro, First Assistant Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department and other officials of the Australian Government.

During the visit, Prime Minister Holt had a highly profitable exchange of views with His Excellency President Park Chung Hee of the Republic of Korea, and he and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea had a series of frank discussions on matters of common concern in a most cordial atmosphere.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the friendly relations existing between their countries have recently been further strengthened through increased co-operation in their common interest and through joint endeavours for the security and prosperity of the Asian and Pacific region.

Prime Minister Chung, recalling with gratitude the part played by the Australian Armed Forces in the Korean war, stated that the visit of Prime Minister Holt to Korea at such a time had a special significance and marked a milestone in the history of Korean-Australian relations.

The two Prime Ministers gave particular attention to recent developments in the Asian and Pacific region. They noted that the united strength of the free nations in the region has been effectively containing the further expansion of the aggressive forces of communism.

In the course of their deliberations, the two Prime Ministers reviewed in detail the latest developments in Viet Nam in the military as well as the political, economic and social fields and discussed ways and means of promoting co-operation between their two countries in achieving their common goals of restoring peace and safeguarding freedom in Viet Nam. They were firmly resolved to do all in their power to prevent the conflict in Viet Nam from spreading to the rest of the region and from affecting other regions of the world as well.

They expressed their satisfaction over the more favourable military situation recently achieved in Viet Nam through the determination and sacrifices of the Vietnamese people and the joint efforts of their allies as well as the successful implementation of various programmes of pacification and social development.

They reaffirmed the resolve of both countries as proclaimed at the Manila Summit Conference in October, 1966, to continue their military and other efforts until the communists realise that their aggressive schemes and actions would not be rewarded and consequently stop their aggression.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that continuing efforts should be made in search of peace in Viet Nam. They agreed that such a peace must guarantee the cessation of acts of aggression by the communists and uphold and respect the independence of the Republic of Viet Nam and the right of the Vietnamese people to choose their own way of life.

The two Prime Ministers further agreed that a settlement in Viet Nam, to be enduring, must respect the wishes and aspirations of the Vietnamese Government and people, that the Vietnamese Government should be a full participant in any negotiations designed to bring about a settlement of the conflict and that the nations which have contributed to the defence of the Republic of Viet Nam should participate in any future settlement of the conflict.

The two Prime Ministers, recognising the valuable achievements of the Manila Summit Conference and the Asian and Pacific Council, stressed the historic significance of the growth of regional solidarity among the free nations in the region, including their two countries, as convincing signs of a brighter and more prosperous future for the region as a whole. They shared the view that the foundation of a new community in the Pacific has thus been laid by the countries in the region, and that such a community should continue to be developed through mutual co-operation of the regional countries working together as equal partners.

They reiterated that their common purpose is to defend the region from external aggression, maintain peace and order and develop the region in accordance with the aims envisaged in the goals of freedom adopted in Manila on October 25, 1966. To this end they agreed to further the development of adequate machinery for consultation and co-operation.

Prime Minister Il Kwon Chung, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, expressed deep appreciation for the valuable support which Australia, a member of the United Nations Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, has rendered to the position of the Republic of Korea at the United Nations.

Prime Minister Holt, in response, stated that his Government would continue to uphold the principles which have been repeatedly reaffirmed at the United Nations with regard to the unification of Korea.

The two Prime Ministers reviewed trade relations existing between the two countries and discussed ways and means to promote mutual trade.

Prime Minister Holt welcomed Korea's admission to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and hoped that trade between the two countries would be further stimulated through the framework of the agreement.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that further discussions should be held between representatives of the two Governments with the object of promoting trade between the two countries.

Prime Minister Chung expressed appreciation for the co-operation rendered thus far by Australia in the economic field, mainly through the Colombo Plan.

The Australian Prime Minister undertook to examine ways in which this co-operation might be extended, including the possibility of providing additional training facilities in Australia for Korean technicians.

Prime Minister Holt expressed his profound thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for the great friendliness and the warm hospitality extended to him and his party from the moment of their arrival in Seoul.
