



VISIT TO SOUTH EAST ASIA 1968

DJAKARTA

SPEECH GIVEN BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO AT STATE  
DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME  
MINISTER, MR. JOHN GORTON

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13 JUNE 1968

Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Gorton, Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:-

May I, on behalf of the Government and the people of Indonesia, once again express our pleasure and appreciation for Your Excellency's acceptance of our invitation to visit Indonesia. This constitutes one of the most important visits to us, for Australia is one of Indonesia's closest neighbours. Our very close geographical propinquity makes it one of the most significant aspects for the future development of our two nations.

Indeed, during the past few years the relations between our two countries were not at their best and at certain periods it was even quite clouded. However, right now we thank God Almighty those days have passed. We are now entering a new period and a hopeful future. It has now become our mutual responsibility to give substance to the future; something that is beneficial to our common interests which we should realize jointly as far as possible and on the basis of equality.

National independence and the peoples' sovereignty are basic principles to which we fully adhere. We maintain and at the same time apply these principles in our attitude towards other nations in the world. Therefore, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity from Sabang to Merauke are for the Indonesian people matters of principle. In order to realize those principles the Indonesian people have fought for hundreds of years sacrificing all they could offer. The fight for freedom has culminated in the proclamation of our independence, but our struggle had still to be continued years after. Up to the present moment, the Indonesian people have still to endure the consequences of their sacrifice in the effort to achieve their territorial integrity. One of them is the people's plight in the economic field. We are therefore determined to defend whatever we have achieved painfully. Despite the burning spirit of our nationalism, the pantja sila, which is the basic Indonesian philosophy, will guarantee that it remains a sound one. Nationalism based on pantja sila will stem the greed for territorial expansion.

To the Indonesian people, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are very important principles; they do not only constitute our rights and honour, but they also serve as one of the important instruments for nation building in its broadest sense. I am confident that the Australian people will understand what I have just said, as they did when the Indonesian people fought to uphold and maintain their independence in 1945, which they fully supported, and to which they rendered their concrete assistance. For all this, on this occasion, the Indonesian people once again wish to express their highest appreciation and profound gratitude.

Much has happened since the Indonesian people achieved independence and many changes have occurred in the world and around our territory. After going through various stages of developments and serious ordeals, the Indonesian people have now regained their genuine ideals of independence and we are doing our utmost to substantiate that independence with the welfare of the people. In our effort to give substance to our independence by way of reconstruction, we are aware of the necessity to maintain stability in South East Asia. This stability is to be based upon the

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principles of national independence and the people's sovereignty by which genuine good-neighbour policy can be established.

In this world, that still contains greed to influence other nations' internal affairs - which in some instances were conducted by force of arms - we also realize the necessity of a physical defence capable of protecting the Indonesian nation and our country's integrity. However, the Indonesian people believe that the means for defence, which are decisive and at the same time advantageous, are the conviction in its own national identity and the standard of prosperity of its people. In my opinion, such a good neighbour policy is sufficiently realistic and will always serve as a basis for the Indonesian nation in conducting its co-operation with friendly countries, in particular with those in our immediate neighbourhood.

We highly esteem the fact that recently Australia has paid a great deal of attention to problems encountered by the developing South East Asian nations, and in particular Indonesia. The developments that have occurred in Indonesia and the new outlook that has come about in the minds of the Australian people, to my belief, reflect a very favourable situation for our two nations. Let us maintain this very favourable atmosphere and transform it into a more concrete and effective mould. This mutual friendship and co-operation beneficial to our two nations, will certainly be significant not only for Australian and Indonesia, but also for the sake of this region's stability and the more so it will positively contribute to the peace in the world. I pray that my hopes will become a reality in the not too distant future.

Finally, may I invite Your Excellency, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen to raise your glasses and to toast to the health of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and also the health of Your Excellency, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gorton, and the distinguished members of the Prime Minister's party.

Thank you.

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