

DJAKARTA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

14 JUNE 1968

General Suharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, and the Rt. Hon. J. G. Gorton, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, completed their discussions today. The two leaders expressed their pleasure at the basic goodwill, friendship and good neighbour spirit between the two countries. They welcomed the continuing development of close and co-operative relations between the Governments of Indonesia and Australia, and the growth of contacts between their peoples in a wide variety of fields.

The two leaders discussed the problems facing their respective countries and the objectives they each sought, and declared their interest in the stability and progress in Asia and the Pacific were prerequisites to world peace, and that developments in the region affected the vital interests of both countries. They agreed that their two countries should co-operate closely with each other for the attainment of these objectives. They also agreed that the leaders of the two countries should have frequent consultations concerning the problems of the area.

Having reviewed at length the situation and prospects in South East Asia, they noted that the strengthening and consolidation of national independence and integrity was a foremost objective for the countries of the region. Along with this went a growing sense of community among the nations of the region and a growing movement toward regional co-operation, embracing wide areas of national life. Regional co-operation was both an expression of national independence and a means of supporting that independence. They noted that an environment of economic, social and political stability in the region was essential for the carrying out of sound and constructive national programmes aimed at raising living standards and meeting the desire of people everywhere for a fuller life. In this connection the Prime Minister expressed his understanding and support for the purposes which lay behind the creation of the association of South East Asian nations.

The President expressed his deep appreciation for Australia's active participation in the inter-governmental conferences on Indonesia and for Australia's greatly increased assistance in 1968/69. He hoped that, within the framework of economic co-operation, endeavours would be made to increase further trade between the two countries. The Prime Minister confirmed Australia's strong interest in Indonesia's economic recovery. He stated that Australia was prepared to continue its co-operation with Indonesia, to extend what assistance it could, and to explore the possibilities of increasing trade between the two countries.

The two leaders noted and welcomed the growing variety of cultural contacts between their countries. With a view to stimulating the further growth of these exchanges and to establishing a deeper understanding of the history and culture of their respective peoples, a cultural agreement covering a wide range of activities in this field has today been signed by Mr. Adam Malik, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, and Mr. Max Loveday, Australian Ambassador to Indonesia. The President and the Prime Minister welcomed the opportunity provided by the visit to establish personal contact which they agreed to maintain and strengthen in the future. In this connection the Prime Minister extended a cordial invitation to the President and Mrs. Suharto to visit Australia at a mutually convenient time. The President accepted the invitation with thanks. The Prime Minister expressed his deep appreciation for the warm and cordial reception which he and Mrs. Gorton had received.