



PRIME MINISTER

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VISIT TO INDONESIA, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Issued at the Conclusion of State Visit to Malaysia by the Prime Minister of Australia, The Rt Hon. William McMahon, CH, MP.

14 June, 1972.

The Prime Minister of Australia, The Rt Hon. William McMahon, C.H., M.P. made an official visit to Malaysia from 11-14 June, 1972 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Haji Abdul Razak.

Mr. McMahon was accompanied by the Assistant Minister assisting the Prime Minister, The Hon. J.D.M. Dobie, M.P., and by Senior Officials of the Australian Government.

During his stay, Mr. McMahon held detailed discussions with Tun Haji Abdul Razak, with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Tun Dr. Ismail, and with the Minister of Finance, Tun Tan Siew Sin.

Mr. McMahon visited the Headquarters of the Integrated Air Defence System and Units of the Royal Malaysian Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force stationed at Air Base Butterworth.

He also visited the Air Traffic Control and Aircraft Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Subang Airport, to which Australia is contributing under the Colombo Plan, the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia and the National Operations Room.

He attended a security briefing at the Royal Malaysia Police Headquarters.

The Prime Ministers discussed a wide range of international, regional and bilateral questions. Their discussions, which were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, underlined the close identity of views which exist between the two Governments, their strong common interest in international and regional co-operation, and their commitment to the objectives of peace, stability and progress for the South East Asian region.

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The Prime Ministers exchanged views on the effects of President Nixon's recent visits to Peking and Moscow upon developments and future prospects in Asia. They expressed the hope that the current international trend towards conciliation and detente among the major powers would continue, and that peace and security in the South-East Asian region would be reinforced. They also reviewed the situation in Indo-China and agreed on the need for continued efforts to end the present conflict and bring about a just and peaceful settlement.

Tun Haji Abdul Razak gave Mr. McMahon a detailed and comprehensive account of recent developments in regional co-operation in which Malaysia has played a leading role. These developments include the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, which Tun Haji Abdul Razak described as an important first step towards regional peace and security through the neutralisation of South-East Asia.

Mr. McMahon confirmed that the Malaysian Government goal that South-East Asia should be a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality under effective international guarantees is entirely consistent with the policies of his Government and welcomes the declaration as a regional initiative directed towards peace and stability in Asia.

The Prime Ministers agreed the common objective of the two Governments was the creation of conditions of peace, security and independence in the area in which the work of regional co-operation and national development can go forward.

In the field of defence, the Prime Ministers agreed that the Five Power Arrangements provide a framework for close and effective co-operation which is of value to both Governments. The Prime Minister of Malaysia assured the Prime Minister of Australia that the continuing presence of Australian forces, both land and air, in Malaysia-Singapore in the context of the Arrangements is welcomed by the Malaysian Government and contributes to defence and confidence in that area.

The two Governments have no differences under the Five Power Arrangements. Mr. McMahon reaffirmed that Australia would at all times honour its obligations.

The Prime Ministers agreed that there was a firm basis for friendship between the two countries stemming from historical associations, from shared values and ideals and from a wide range of current mutual interests.

With respect to economic co-operation between the two countries, Tun Haji Abdul Razak welcomed the continuance of Australian aid which is making a steady and continuing contribution to Malaysia's economic development in accordance with the objectives of the Second Malaysia Plan.

Among the projects now in hand are the East-West highway from Telupid to Ranau in Sabah which will be completed this year, the location survey and design of roads in West Malaysia from Segamat to Kuantan and Gopeng to Ringlet, the provision of a number of bridges in Sarawak and of a dredge for the Port of Kuching,

assistance to the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, and the provision of experts under the Colombo Plan in various fields, including Civil Aviation.

The Prime Ministers discussed a number of additional projects in which it was suggested that Australia might participate. These include the Pahang River Basin study and assistance to Mardi in pasture and fodder research. Mr. McMahon said that serious consideration would be given to these matters on his return.

Mr. McMahon also discussed with Tun Haji Abdul Razak and with Tun Tan Siew Sin ways and means of improving trade and private investment links between the two countries. It was the common desire of the two Governments that these links should be further strengthened and developed. It was agreed that further study of these matters would be made by their respective Departments of Trade and Industry.

The Prime Ministers agreed that Malaysia and Australia would continue to be partners in development.

The Prime Ministers noted the many close associations which exist between Malaysia and Australia, not only at Governmental level, but also through contacts between students and scholars, universities and writers, experts and technicians, businessmen and tourists, and in many professional and other fields. They reaffirmed the strength of the friendship and goodwill between their two Governments and peoples.

Tun Haji Abdul Razak accepted an invitation from Mr. McMahon to make an official visit to Australia at a time to be decided at a later date.

Mr. McMahon expressed his sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality so graciously provided to him and his party by the Government of Malaysia.

CANBERRA,

14 June, 1972.