



DEPARTMENT OF  
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JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT CLOSE OF VISIT  
BY YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER TO AUSTRALIA

The Prime Minister of Yugoslavia accompanied by Mrs Bijedic and a party of senior advisers, visited Australia between 20 and 22 March at the invitation of the Australian Government for discussions with the Prime Minister of Australia. The Minister of the Yugoslav Government for economic matters, Dr Ludviger, also had discussions with senior officials of the Department of Overseas Trade and the Treasury. Further discussions were held by the Yugoslav Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Petric, with the Minister of State, Senator Willesee and senior officials of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney-General.

The discussions took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere and covered the main features of Yugoslav and Australian thinking on foreign policy matters. Matters of common concern in bilateral relations between Yugoslavia and Australia were also discussed.

International Questions

Reviewing the international scene the two Prime Ministers welcomed the existence of positive processes which had led to growing detente among the major Powers and to attempts to find solutions to problems through negotiation and agreement. At the same time, however, the two leaders recognised that there were still areas of potential conflict which gave rise to anxiety.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of cease fire agreements in Viet-Nam and Laos, and emphasised

the necessity for all parties to the agreements to abide by their terms in order to achieve the objective of peace in Indo-China.

In considering the situation on the Indian sub-continent the two Prime Ministers expressed the hope that there would be a speedy solution of all outstanding issues so as to establish lasting peace and security in this region.

The two Prime Ministers expressed their concern about the situation in the Middle East and accepted that the terms of Security Council Resolution 242 of 22 November 1967 offered the basis for a just and lasting settlement of this grave problem.

Mr Bijedic informed Mr Whitlam of the present activities of the non-aligned countries and of the preparations for the Fourth Conference of Heads of State and Government of non-aligned countries, at which their further actions in the struggle for peace and security, development and democratisation of international relations will be considered. Australian interest in the work of these countries was expressed by the Prime Minister of Australia who saw value in closer Australian observation of such meetings.

Both Prime Ministers laid stress upon the interests of their country within their own geographical neighbourhoods. The Prime Minister of Yugoslavia outlined his Government's thinking in relation to questions of European security and co-operation between European countries. The Prime Minister of Australia similarly stressed the great importance attached by his Government to co-operation with the countries of Asia and the Pacific. The Yugoslav delegation appreciated the willingness of the Australian Government to contribute actively to the development of co-operation among the countries of the region.

Both Prime Ministers expressed their Governments' determination to work for the elimination of the remaining

vestiges of colonialism. The Prime Minister of Australia outlined the progress that had been made in relation to Papua New Guinea which would shortly achieve self-government and thereafter independence as soon as this was practicable. The two Prime Ministers also expressed their abhorrence of all manifestations of racial discrimination wherever they might occur and their determination to support efforts in the United Nations and elsewhere to eliminate remaining instances of inequality between peoples of different colour.

Both Prime Ministers stressed the importance they attached to the role of the United Nations and agreed that their foreign policies would be conducted within the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They also emphasised the importance of developing useful co-operation between the representatives of Yugoslavia and Australia in the United Nations and in other international organisations.

The two Prime Ministers underlined the willingness of their respective countries to engage actively in constructive measures designed to reduce the economic gap between the developed and the developing countries. They agreed on the indispensability of equal participation of developing countries in the solution of the economic problems of the modern world.

#### Bilateral Relations

The two Prime Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations between Yugoslavia and Australia and agreed that there was scope for their further development to the mutual advantage of both countries.

The Australian Prime Minister said that his Government was not satisfied that sufficient action had been taken in the past towards the detection, suppression and expulsion of extremists in Australia engaged in activities against Yugoslavia, and foreshadowed more vigorous action in the

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future. The Yugoslav Prime Minister greatly welcomed this assurance of the Australian Government's intentions.

In the field of economic relations, both sides expressed their desire to develop trade in both directions, as well as to promote other ways of achieving economic co-operation. The Yugoslav side informed the Australian side about the Yugoslav economic system and principles of functioning of the Yugoslav free market economy. The need to increase Yugoslav exports to Australia was pointed out, and the Australian side expressed its readiness to consider the creation of the necessary conditions to that end.

The Yugoslav Prime Minister, on behalf of his wife and all the members of his delegation, as well as on his own behalf, expressed the warmest gratitude for the extremely friendly reception and hospitality extended by the Australian Government during his visit.

The Prime Minister of Yugoslavia invited the Prime Minister of Australia to visit Yugoslavia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.