



# DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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NO  
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DATE  
22 December 1972

## ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr E.G. Whitlam, today issued the following statement.

"Australia and the People's Republic of China have reached agreement on mutual recognition and the establishment of diplomatic relations.

I announced on 5 December that I had instructed our Ambassador in Paris to open negotiations with his Chinese colleague on this matter. These negotiations have been successful, and the two Ambassadors signed the attached joint communique at our Ambassador's residence in Paris on 21 December at 9 p.m. (7 a.m. on 22 December Canberra time).

It has long been the objective of the Australian Labor Party to establish diplomatic relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China. It accordingly gives me great satisfaction to announce that this important step has now been taken.

While it has long been recognised that Australia's geographical position gives it special interests in the Asian region, up until now we have not come to terms with one of the central facts of that region, the People's Republic of China. This serious distortion in our foreign policy has now been corrected.

We have recognised the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. It follows that we can give no recognition to others claiming to be the Government of China. Chinese policies on both sides of the Taiwan Straits required us, as they have

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required other governments in a similar position, to make a choice in this matter. We have made the choice which we believe will best serve the interests of Australia. It is also the choice that has been made by the United Nations.

Our diplomatic relations with Taiwan came to an end with the signing of the communique in Paris. It is consequently necessary that Australian official representation in Taipei, and Taiwan's official representation in Australia, be withdrawn. This will be done before 25 January 1973, as noted in the communique.

We now look forward to the growth of a more substantial relationship between Australia and China. I conveyed this hope in the attached message to Premier Chou En-lai which was passed to him through the Chinese Ambassador in Paris on 6 December (Paris time). Premier Chou responded to this message on 10 December. (Text attached.) I am gratified that Premier Chou has reciprocated my wish for a more substantial relationship and that he has identified some fields of future cooperation."