

Joint Communique issued at the conclusion on 12 January 1975 of the visit to Yugoslavia by the Prime Minister of Australia

At the invitation of the President of the Federal Executive Council, Dzermal Bijedic, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. E. G. Whitlam, accompanied by Mrs Whitlam, paid an official friendly visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 9 to 12 January 1975.

The President of the Republic, Josip Broz Tito, received Prime Minister Whitlam, and held a long and friendly talk with him on topics of mutual interest relating to international relations and bilateral co-operation. The Prime Minister extended an invitation to the President to visit Australia. The President accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Prime Minister Whitlam and his party visited Belgrade, Mostar and Dubrovnik.

In the course of the visit, detailed and extensive discussion took place between the President of the Federal Executive Council, Dzermal Bijedic, and Prime Minister Whitlam and their associates.

The Yugoslav side at the talks was represented by:

Mr Milos Minic, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs;

Dr Emil Ludviger, Member of the Federal Executive Council, Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade;

Mr Miljan Komatina, Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs;

Mr Uros Vidovic, Ambassador of the SFR of Yugoslavia to Australia;

Mrs Milica Ziberna, Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade;

Mr Milan Manojlovic, Assistant Chairman of the Federal Committee for Work and Employment;

Mr Nikola Cicanovic, Adviser to the President of the Federal Executive Council for Foreign Policy Matters;

Mr Ismet Redzic, Director of the Department

for the Far East, Indochina and Pacific, Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs; and Mr Bozidar Crnjak, Head of Group for Pacific Department for Far East, Indochina and Pacific.

The Australian side at the talks was represented by:

Hon. L. F. Bowen, Special Minister of State and Minister assisting the Prime Minister;

H. E. Malcolm Booker, Ambassador of Australia to the SFR of Yugoslavia;

Sir Lenox Hewitt, O.B.E., Secretary, Department of Minerals and Energy;

Mr D. H. McKay, O.B.E., Secretary, Department of Overseas Trade;

Mr G. J. Yeend, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;

Mr R. A. Woolcott, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs;

Mr J. Spigelman, Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister;

Mr R. J. Greet, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs; and

Mr J. S. F. Bowan, Counsellor of the Embassy of Australia

Separate talks were held in the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and in the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Trade between the officials of these two institutions and members of the Australian delegation.

All discussions took place in a friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect. Views were exchanged on wide-ranging current international issues and on the possibilities for promoting diversified forms of co-operation between the two countries.

The two sides paid particular attention to the expansion of mutual trade. It was noted that the level of economic relations lags behind the actual possibilities. They expressed their belief that there exist favourable conditions for the further development of economic co-operation in various fields and agreed that it was necess-

ary and in the mutual interest to make joint efforts to enhance trade and economic co-operation in both directions.

The Australian side would welcome a greater engagement of Yugoslav commercial interests in the Australian market and to this end recommended to the Yugoslav side the intensified use of the market assistance facility of the Australian Department of Overseas Trade.

The Australian side agreed to give careful consideration to the Yugoslav wish to conclude an agreement on the elimination of double taxation.

The two sides welcomed the conclusion of an air service agreement between Australia and Yugoslavia and the early introduction of regular scheduled services between Australia and Yugoslavia by Qantas and JAT.

The two sides consider that the Yugoslavs living and working in Australia represent a special link between Yugoslavia and Australia. The Yugoslav side expressed its appreciation for the efforts which Australia has made to promote the welfare of Yugoslavs in Australia. The Australian side reiterated its concern that they should enjoy the same conditions as other members of the Australian community. Both sides believed that there could be value in the conclusion of a Social Welfare Agreement between Australia and Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav side notes with appreciation the efforts which the Australian Government had made to prevent terrorist activity by extremist emigré groups aimed against Yugoslavia and designed to obstruct the development of friendly relations between the two countries. The Australian side confirmed its determination to prevent such activity.

The two sides also examined possibilities to intensify cultural co-operation and agreed to conclude a Cultural Agreement at an early date.

Prime Minister Whitlam set forth his assessment of the situation in the Pacific and Asian region. Prime Minister Bijedic acquainted Prime Minister Whitlam with his view of the situation in Europe, particularly in the area of the Mediterranean. The Yugoslav side informed the Australian side in detail of the activities and the forthcoming program of the non-aligned countries. The two sides noted that the strengthening of the role of the non-aligned countries, which had become an important political and

material factor in the world, contributes considerably to the democratisation and stabilisation of international relations and to the settlement of outstanding international issues.

The Yugoslav side took note with interest and appreciation of the desire of Australia to take part as observer or guest at the next summit meeting of the non-aligned countries and welcomed its positive attitude towards the increased role of the non-aligned policy as well as its interest in co-operation with the non-aligned countries.

In regard to the situation in the Middle East, the two sides pointed out the need to make intensive efforts to find a just and durable solution on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

The two Prime Ministers consider that the implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations constitutes the appropriate approach for a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus crisis and expressed their willingness to make efforts to this end.

With respect to the situation in Viet-Nam, the two sides agreed that it was necessary to secure the full and strict implementation of the Paris Agreements.

In welcoming the progress made by the peoples of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola on their road to liberation, and the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Resolution on decolonisation as the expression of the successful struggle against colonialism, the two sides emphatically condemned the policy of racial discrimination and apartheid and expressed their belief that the peoples subjected to racial oppression would soon attain freedom.

The two Prime Ministers emphasised the particular importance of the United Nations organisation, pointing to the need for further strengthening its role and efficacy in dealing with fundamental international political and economic problems, as well as in the development of all-round international co-operation and safeguarding peace in the world. The importance and usefulness of co-operation between representatives of Yugoslavia and Australia in the United Nations and in other international organisations were also emphasised.

During the conversations, views were exchanged on the current economic situation in the world. The two sides stressed the need to find

more durable solutions to economic problems through broad international co-operation which would take into account the interdependence of all states while respecting their sovereign interests. The two sides accentuated the importance of the decisions of the Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the need for their early implementation. They concurred in the belief that disruptions in the world economy could be overcome only through substantial changes in existing international economic relations and the establishment of a new economic order based on equality between nations. Only thus would it be possible to improve substantially the position of the developing countries, which constitute a key issue in international economic relations. The two sides stressed that the problems of raw materials and economic development could be resolved through the introduction of more just terms of trade in the exchange of primary and industrial products, while at the same time recognising the right of all nations to freely manage their own natural resources. The two sides voiced the need to undertake concrete steps in the direction of halting the arms race and bringing about general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament.

The two Prime Ministers expressed their readiness to support all efforts aimed at consolidating international co-operation based on the principles of equality, non-interference and respect for the independence and sovereignty of all states. They evaluated positively the results so far achieved in the promotion of detente, as a contribution to peace. They stressed that, in order to become a universal and lasting process, detente must spread to all areas of the world, so facilitating the resolution of outstanding international issues and acute crises with the participation of the international community as a whole.

The Prime Minister expressed his deep appreciation for the warm cordiality and generous hospitality extended to him and his party by Mr Bijedic and the Yugoslav Government.



The opening of talks in the Kremlin between Mr Whitlam and Mr Kosygin.