



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

21 March 1979

**AUSTRALIAN-ASEAN MINISTERIAL
MEETING**

The Prime Minister has welcomed the joint statement issued following the Australian-ASEAN Ministerial meeting in Djakarta.

"Clearly the meeting has been most successful", the Prime Minister said.

"Useful progress has been made on a number of points.

"Bilateral discussions will now be held on cheaper fares between Australia and each ASEAN nation.

"Over the next few weeks, more detailed work will be carried out by officials on stopover fares and access by ASEAN carriers to the Australia/UK route.

"The links between Australia and the ASEAN countries continue as close and strong as ever", the Prime Minister said.

ASEAN - AUSTRALIA MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CIVIL AVIATION

Following is text of statement released at joint ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Conference 1600 hours Jakarta time 21 March 1979:-

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting on the Australian International Civil Aviation Policy (ICAP) was held on 20-21 March 1979 in Jakarta.

The meeting was officially opened by H.E. Prob. Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee.

The meeting was attended by the ASEAN ministers, namely: H.E. Mr. Roesmin Nurjadin, Minister of Communications of Indonesia, H.E. Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Trade and Industry of Malaysia, H.E. Gerardo P. Sicat, Minister of Economic Planning of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Ong Teng Cheong, Minister for Communications of Singapore, H.E. Goh Chok Tong, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore and H.E. General Surakit Mayalarp, Minister of Communications of Thailand, and on the Australian side, by H.E. Mr. P. J. Nixon, Minister of Transport of Australia and H.E. Mr. A. S. Peacock, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, and their respective delegations.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Leader of the ASEAN delegation.

H.E. Datuk Ali Bin Abdullah, Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat was also present.

The ASEAN Ministers reiterated the ASEAN common stand adopted at the Seventh ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting on 12-13 December 1978 and the special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting on 22 February 1979.

The Australian ministers outlined the philosophy and objectives of the new Australian International Civil Aviation Policy. They explained particularly its objective of providing the lowest possible fares for international travellers. They emphasised that it was the policy and intention of the Australian Government that the ASEAN countries should share equitably in the benefits of the new scheme.

The Ministers addressed the principles set out in the ASEAN joint statement of 22 February and agreed courses of action that would be taken on these.

With regard to participation by ASEAN carriers in the Australia-UK/Europe low fare scheme, Ministers agreed that further studies were needed on this subject.

Concerning the level of a stopover fare on the Australia-UK/Europe route, Ministers agreed that further work was also required on this matter with a view to proposals being developed on an appropriate fare level.

Ministers directed officials to proceed quickly with further work on these two matters and to report back to their respective Ministers within a month.

Ministers agreed in principle on ranges of cheap fares proposed by the ASEAN Ministers for travel between Australia and ASEAN countries. They further agreed that these could form the basis for bilateral negotiations between Australia and each of the ASEAN countries. Ministers confirmed that such bilateral discussions would take place without any way affecting the ASEAN collective approach to this subject.

Ministers agreed that the ASEAN countries would develop proposals which they would put to Australia in intra-ASEAN stopover fares to be used in conjunction with the low cost fares between Australia and the ASEAN region.

The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, in keeping with the long established tradition of close and cooperative links between the ASEAN countries and Australia.