



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER HAWKE AND
PRIME MINISTER RYZHKOV, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 14 FEBRUARY
1990

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

HAWKE: Ladies and gentlemen, I'll say a few words. My friend, the Soviet Prime Minister will then say a few words about our meeting and then we'll be available if you desire for questions for a while. The Soviet Prime Minister and I have had extensive discussions lasting for a couple of hours this morning and in those discussions we were able to cover the exciting developments in the Soviet Union, in the international sphere, and also the question of bilateral relationships between our two countries. Prime Minister Ryzhkov underlined the commitment of the leadership of his country to a continuation of the process of change in the political and economic spheres that are underway in the Soviet Union. And I told the Prime Minister that as far as Australia, the people, and the Government of Australia were concerned, that we wholeheartedly supported the changes that were taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and that in Australia we wish to respond constructively to those changes and do whatever we can to assist. We discussed specific ways in which the bilateral relationship between our two countries could be expanded, especially in the economic area, and in addition to the interchange that the Prime Minister and I were able to have, that was supplemented significantly over lunch when we had the opportunity of being joined by a number of leaders of Australian business. I'm pleased to announce that we have agreed that there will be a high level visit to the Soviet Union later this year by Australian experts from both the private and the Government sectors who have experience, expertise in the area of food processing, handling and transportation and we believe between us that there is scope for significant cooperation in that area. Amongst the international issues that we covered was one of particular interest in our region, of developments in Cambodia and I'm very pleased to say with the Soviet Minister again in my presence, warmly welcomed the Australian initiative in regard to Cambodia and the attempts that we're making there to bringing about a resolution of the tragedy in that country. We also shared observations about general developments in the Asian Pacific region. Finally, in these introductory comments, let me say with a great deal of pleasure that the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union

indicated the support of the Soviets for the initiative that Australia has taken together with France in regard to the Antarctic.

RYZHKOV: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my second day on this visit to Australia and it is the first time ever that a Head of a Soviet Government is visiting Australia since the time diplomatic relations were established between our two countries. Yesterday I had some scenes in Melbourne and early in the day we had some official formal ceremony and also a very exciting discussion with Prime Minister, Mr Hawke. Among the major issues that we discussed and as I understand that issue is of major concern to the Prime Minister is the problem, the actual internal situation in the Soviet Union. I tried to be as detailed as possible in providing a description of the positive and negative aspects of that current situation in the Soviet Union. The discussion was on the subject of economic situation, the situation of the Party, the inter-ethnic relationship. It is my hope that the information I was able to provide to the Prime Minister will enable him to take a more objective look of the situation in our country. It is our feeling that we're going to ... complicated period in our reform process and in other words that we have come to a point that we have to implement fully the reforms that we outlined in the past. We know that we have to go through that difficult period. We also discussed some international issues and as the Prime Minister just said, this above all was the conflict in Kampuchea. We support the initiatives that were put forward by Australia on the Cambodian conflict, especially whether it's ... to involvement by the United Nations in that process. We also touched upon several bilateral issues and it is also appealing that our additional discussions that we had with members of the Australian business community and the plenary sessions that we're going to have later in the day will provide an opportunity for a more detailed discussion of those issues. It is our feeling that in the area of bilateral relationship we have good prospects. I'm very much satisfied with the course of this visit. Everywhere I went I felt kind attention and attitude and I felt sincere kindness coming from those officials - Australian officials - that had to organise my visit here. We met and we know each other, Prime Minister Mr Hawke, for some time. People in our country have good memories of this visit that he made to our country late in 1987 so we met again here as good old friends. I thank you for your attention.

HAWKE: OK, are there any questions?

JOURNALIST: (Question not translated)

RYZHKOV: We are working on a number of proposals covering further development of bilateral economic relationship. It is our view that we have come very close to completion of a project on a joint venture in

the production of aluminium. We also engaged in negotiations on geological exploration and prospecting and these are some of the non traditional trade and economic relationship that we have established in the past. We also discussed with the Prime Minister the issue of fishing. It would appear that there are many interesting suggestions in that regard, but the Australian side will have to give another thought to what we have suggested. We would hope that the suggestions that we have made would be of mutual benefit both to Australia and the Soviet Union. Tomorrow we intend to continue country discussion of that issue.

JOURNALIST: Mr Prime Minister, could you tell us your feeling about this discovering Australia and you said before that you and Prime Minister Hawke know each other quite well for quite some time, but this is a first visit and this is a sort of a discovery ... of Australia. What's your feeling on that?

RYZHKOV: I feel strongly that visit Prime Minister Hawke made to Moscow late in 1987 provided a very powerful impetus to our bilateral relationship and that is not meant as a compliment or as a flattering remark, but this is indeed what the actual situation is. And, as I said this morning, I also pledged that my current visit go beyond the bounds of protocol function and also ... lay down another stone in the foundation of our bilateral relationship. If we are successful in accomplishing this target then our mission will have been completed, but of course this is a discovering a new, for me this is discovering of new of this country and I see a lot of prospects and opportunities for expanded cooperation. And what happens most is the ... attitudes on the part of the Government ... to further developments of relations with the Soviet Union to building trust and confidence and trust is the most important thing because that is the foundation for any further development of relations and this is what we have been feeling most strongly. Trust and confidence coming from the Government of Australia.

JOURNALIST: Would the Soviet Prime Minister tell us whether the future of the Soviet base at Cam-Ranh Bay was discussed? And if it was discussed, what was said and if it was not discussed, what are the intentions of the Soviet Union -

JOURNALIST: From the outset I could tell that we did not discuss that issue. On the base ... I can tell you the following. Basically you may be aware of the overall Soviet position which is in favour of dismantling foreign bases in ... and that would apply to Soviet, US and bases of other countries wherever they may be found. On the Cam-Ranh base, following the request of the Vietnamese Government, we are based there only one squadron, that is five to six aircraft, no more.

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