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JOINT COMMUNIQUE

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

Mr. Hayato Ikeda, Prime Minister of Japan, accompanied by Mrs. Ikeda, is visiting Australia as the guest of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia from 29th September to 3rd October, 1963. During his stay in Australia, Mr. Ikeda will visit Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, and have discussions with Sir Robert Menzies and other Cabinet Ministers.

The Prime Ministers of Japan and Australia have had cordial and valuable talks marked by frank discussions of the international situation in general, and covering also consideration of means of promoting still further the friendly relations between the two countries.

In discussing the international situation, the Prime Ministers established that there was a close identity between their respective international policies. They looked forward to close co-operation in the future, through consultations at various levels with the aim of promoting the interest of the two countries and of the free world.

The Prime Ministers especially welcomed the recent partial nuclear test ban agreement, which they hoped would be supported by all countries, not least of all by countries in the Pacific or with interests in the Pacific.

Noting that both Australia and Japan had welcomed the formation of Malaysia, and recognising the common destiny and responsibility of their two countries in Asia and the Western Pacific area, the two Prime Ministers expressed their deep concern for the situation in that area, and agreed that the two countries should closely co-operate in contributing to the attainment of peace and economic progress in that part of the world. They discussed ways in which Australia and Japan might, through the Colombo Plan and in other ways, co-operate in furthering economic development in South East Asia.

The Prime Ministers expressed pleasure and satisfaction at the recent signing of a Trade Agreement between Australia and Japan, providing for a full GATT relationship between Australia and Japan and withdrawing the Article 35 reservation. It was confidently expected that the new agreement would lead to a further expansion of the mutually beneficial trade relations already existing between the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the further increase in both personal contacts and cultural exchanges between the two countries, and agreed that the two Governments would endeavour to promote these developments by every possible means.

The two Prime Ministers considered that Prime Minister Ikeda's visit to Australia was of great significance to the furtherance of mutual understanding and friendly relations between the two countries, and agreed that the two Governments should keep the closest possible contacts with each other both at the ministerial and official levels.

CANBERRA,
30th September, 1963.