KLC 1567 KLS 144 IKZXE COUMW IKZXE OTUAP 13/6/68

UNCLASSIFIED

ADDRESSED CANBERRA 1385, REPEATED SINGAPORE 130.

(ATTENTION MISS NEWPORT, ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY TO P.M.)

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE ON 11 JUNE.

FOR MASTER FILE AND INSTANT SERVICE LIST ONLY.

BEGINS:

I DON'T THINK YOU EXPECT ME TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT, BECAUSE THE VISIT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN A COMPLETELY OPEN WAY, KNOWING WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND WHERE I HAVE BEEN., AND THE GENERAL TOPICS OF CONVERSATION ARE ALSO PROBABLY KNOWN TO YOU.

PERHAPS I COULD SAY THIS THOUGH, AS I HAVE JUST SAID TO YOUR PRIME MINISTER, THAT MY WIFE AND I ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE INVITATION WHICH WAS GIVEN US TO VISIT THIS CITY STATE., THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THIS VISIT WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A NUMBER OF RECIPROCAL VISITS FROM, I HOPE, MYSELF AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA AND MR LEE AS PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE., AND THAT IN THE MEANTIME THE BASIS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR COMMUNICATION ON A PERSONAL LEVEL WHICH I THINK CAN DO NOTHING BUT GOOD TO BOTH OUR NATIONS.

I HAVE ENJOYED THE VISIT., I HAVE FOUND IT VALUABLE, AND I HOPE, AND BELIEVE, THAT THE RESULTS WHICH THE FUTURE MIGHT BRING WILL SHOW THAT, IN FACT, IT WAS VALUABLE.

BUT HAVING SAID THAT, PERHAPS YOU MIGHT WISH TO ASK ME SOME QUESTIONS. I LEAVE IT OVER TO YOU NOW. Q. PRIME MINISTER, DURING YOUR VISIT HERE AND PARTICULARLY HERE YOU HAVE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION, AND YOU HAVE ALSO MENTIONED ON OCCASIONS PACTS BETWEEN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

SOME KIND OF ARRANGEMENT, PACTS BETWEEN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, ANYWAY

A. WAIT A MOMEMT.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ME USE THE WORD ''PACTS'' OR AGREEMENTS ?

Q. COULD I SAY SOME KIND OF ARRANGEMENT THEN ? COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME IN A LITTLE BIT MORE DETAIL WHAT KIND OF THING YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR THIS REGION.

I THINK WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS MORE ON THE LINES OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION.

 A. MORE ALONG THE LINES OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IS WHAT YOU SAID. WHAT ONE WOULD HOPE TO SEE ACHIEVED IS AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIC LIVING STANDARDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE REGION., AND THE VARIOUS NATIONS IN THE REGION INCLUDING OURSELVES, HELPING EACH OTHER FOR THIS GENERAL ADVANCEMENT.

THIS IS NOT A BI-LATERAL THING, IT IS A MULTI-LATERAL THING OF THE NATIONS IN THE AREA: IT DEPENDS NOT ON AID ALONE FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER BUT ON MULTI-LATERAL AID AND, INDEED, ON FREEING THE CHANNELS OF TRADE AS FAR AS THE INTERESTS OF A PARTICULAR COUNTRY MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.

THIS, TOGETHER WITH A BANISHMENT OF FEAR, A BANISHMENT OF ANY DANGER OF AGGRESSION FROM INSIDE THE AREA IS THE SORT OF THING ONE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACHIEVED.

THE DIRECT METHODS BY WHICH THAT HAPPENS ARE OF COURSE ABLE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE, BUT THE END RESULT IS THE ONE WHICH I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PUT TO YOU IN THOSE FEW WORDS. Q. MR PRIME MINISTER, PURELY ON THE BASIS OF THE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM KUALA LUMPUR, DID THE RATHER RIGID ATTITUDE OF THE BRITISH TOWARD THE DEFENCE SITUATION SURPRISE YOU ?

A. WELL, I'D LIKE TO SEE THE TRANSCRIPTS OF WHATEVER WAS SAID BY THE BRITISH SPOKESMEN THERE BEFORE I MAKE ANY REAL COMMENTS ABOUT THAT.

BUT THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF VARIATIONS OVER THE YEARS ON BRITISH PROGRAMMES AND BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN THIS REGION, SO I'D LIKE TO SEE THE TRANSCRIPT TO SEE WHETHER THERE IS OR IS NOT ANY FURTHER VARIATION.

AND I DON'T THINK I'D COMMENT ON IT UNTIL I'D SEEN THE TRANSCRIPT.

Q. SIR, YOU HAD DISCUSSIONS ON TRADE - WERE THERE ANY SPECIFIC COMMODITIES MENTIONED ?

A. NO, THERE WEREN'T.

I WAS TALKING OF A GENERAL AREA,

BUT /IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU TO KNOW THAT WE DID IN THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF A TAXATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE.

AND WE HAVE AGREED AND ARRANGED THAT DISCUSSIONS AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL ON THE NEGOTIATION OF RECIPROCAL TAXATION SHOULD IMMEDIATELY TAKE PLACE.

Q. ALONG THE LINES OF THE JAPAN/AUSTRALIA

A. OF THE JAPANESE/AUSTRALIA (AGREEMENT).

Q. MR GORTON, DURING YOUR TALKS WITH MR LEE AND OTHER LEADERS HERE, ARE YOU ABLE TO INDICATE JUST WHAT AUSTRALIA'S MILITARY ROLE IN THIS AREA MIGHT BE AFTER 1971 OR IS IT TOO EARLY TO DO THAT ?

A. I THINK WE'LL WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FIVE-POWER TALKS AND ANY SUBSEQUENT TALKS WHICH MAY FLOW FROM THE FIVE-POWER TALKS.

IN OTHER WORDS AS MR LEE HIMSELF SAID LAST NIGHT, IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE AT THIS STAGE TO KEEP ALL ONE'S OPTIONS OPEN.

Q. SIR, YOU HAVE BEEN IN VIETNAM, WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE VIETNAM \$ITUATION ?

A. THIS IS A TERRIBLY BROAD QUESTION, WHAT'S MY VIEW ON THE VIETNAM SITUATION ?

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU MEAN MILITARILY OR PRECISELY WHAT IT IS WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO ANSWER.

Q. I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU WHETHER A MILITARY VICTORY IS POSSIBLE ?

A. I MYSELF BELIEVE, ALTHOUGH I DON'T POSE TO BE A MILITARY STRATEGIST OR A TECHNICIAN - I AM A POLITICIAN WHO RECEIVES MILITARY ADVICE AND ATTEMPTS TO EVALUATE IT I THINK THAT THE OUTCOME, FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, WILL DEPEND ON WILL, YOU KNOW WILL AND RESOLVE BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE THAT THERE WAS GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT AND THAT IN THE CHOOSING OF IT TO BE FREE FROM TERROR OR SUBVERSION, OR PRESSURE FROM ANY QUARTER.

AND IF THIS IS ACQUIRED FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, THEN THEY WILL BE THE ONES WHO WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE CHOICE OF WHICH PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT THEY WANT.

AND IF THEY CAN DO IT WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR OR PRESSURE THEN I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL HAVE GAINED WHAT WE HAVE SET OUT TO GAIN, AND WHAT YOU IN SINGAPORE HAVE AND WHAT WE IN AUSTRALIA HAVE AND WHAT I THINK IS NECESSARY FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE. Q. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE MILITARY, SIR ?

A. THE ONLY PURPOSE OF MILITARY ACTION IS TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, NOT JUST THE VIETNAM SITUATION.

IN ANY TIME WHEN A CONFLICT TAKES PLACE, THAT CONFLICT TAKES PLACE BECAUSE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE, AND ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER DECIDES THEY WILL RESORT TO FORCE INSTEAD OF CONTINUING TO TRY AND REACH AN AGREED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

NOW WHAT ONE HOPES WOULD TAKE PLACE WOULD BE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF THAT POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TOOK PLACE, AS LONG AS IT TOOK PLACE ALONG THE LINES THAT I HAVE SUGGESTED, WITHOUT FURTHER MILITARY ACTION.

BUT IF IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THAT KIND OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, THEN I EXPECT THAT MILITARY ACTION WILL CONTINUE.

Q. MR PRIME MINISTER, AUSTRALIA IS GETTING MORE AND MORE INTERESTED IN ASIA.

DO YOU THINK YOUR IMMIGRATION POLICY WILL HAVE TO BE REVISED TO GIVE ASIANS AN EQUAL CHANCE TO COME TO AUSTRALIA WITH EUROPEANS ?

A. YOU KNOW, YOU USED A WORD WHICH INTERESTS ME AND RATHER BEMUSES ME.

YOU SAID AUSTRALIA IS GETTING MORE AND MORE INTERESTED IN ASIA. JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ASIA ?

ASIA IS A CONTINENT AND IN THE AREA THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, A LOT OF DIFFERENT CULTURES, A LOT OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES, IT IS NOT AN ENTITY IS IT ?

IT'S NO MORE AN ENTITY THAN EUROPE WAS AN ENTITY BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

GERMANS WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE FRENCH, AND THE FRENCH WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE ITALIANS, AND THE RUSSIANS WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM EVERYBODY ELSE, AND SO ON

WE ARE INTERESTED IN PEOPLE, AND WE HAPPEN TO BE INTERESTED 'IN THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO US.

0.K.

THE NUMBER OF THE NATIONS WHO ARE CLOSEST TO US ARE NATIONS WHO ARE IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA KNOWN AS ASIA, BUT IT'S RATHER A BLANKET THING WHICH I WANTED TO TIE DOWN A BIT MORE, TO DEFINE A LITTLE BIT MORE THAN YOU HAD DEFINED IT. WE HAVE AN IMMIGRATION POLICY WHICH IS SUBJECT TO CONSTANT REVIEW, AND INDEED HAS RECENTLY BEEN REVIEWED.

IF AN ASIAN WISHED TO BE NATURALIZED AS AN AUSTRALIAN, THEY HAD TO LIVE IN AUSTRALIA FOR 15 YEARS, WHEREAS EUROPEANS HAD TO LIVE THERE FOR 5.

THAT HAS BEEN CHANGED NOW: AT. ASIAN ONLY HAS TO LIVE THERE FOR 5 YEARS THE SAME AS THE EUROPEAN.

THIS IS ONE ALTERATION WHICH HAS BEEN MADE.

THERE' IS ALSO, OF COURSE, NO BAR - SUBJECT TO IT BEING A GENUINE MARRIAGE, AGAINST ANY ASIAN MARRYING AN AUSTRALIAN AND AUTOMATICALLY BECOMING AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN I DON'T MEAN BY THAT THAT YOU CAN HAVE AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE JUST FOR THAT PURPOSE, BUT A GENUINE MARRIAGE LEADS TO THAT RESULT.

QUITE SOME THOUSANDS - I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY FROM THE IMMIGRATION FIGURES FOR THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF ASIA - DO BECOME NATURALIZED IN AUSTRALIA.

I EXPECT THAT OVER THE DECADES AHEAD THIS KIND OF LIBERALIZATION IS LIKELY TO BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

WE, I THINK, NEED TO BE SURE THAT WE DON'T RUN A RISK OF CREATING IN AUSTRALIA A PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE SEEN CREATED IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD - WHERE A VERY LARGE MINORITY ATTRACTS THE DISLIKE OF THE MAJORITY (DISLIKE ISN'T THE PROPER WORD., I THINK YOU KNOW THE WORD I MEAN - ANIMOSITY - SOMETHING OF THAT KIND., WE CAN AVOID THAT) AND THIS WILL THEREFORE BE A GRADUAL GROWTH.

BUT IT HAS BEEN, I HAVE LOOKED BACK ON THE RECORD, IT HAS BEEN A GROWTH THAT HAS BEEN LIBERALISED., THE THING HAS BEEN MADE EASIER. [/]

BUT AGAIN, FROM OUR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS, WE WOULD NEED TO TRY AND SEE THAT WHAT HAPPENS IN OTHER PLACES, INCLUDING THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF ASIA, WAS AVOIDED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY.

I DON'T THINK THAT I OUGHT TO GO TOO DEEPLY INTO IT.

YOU WOULD KNOW OF COUNTRIES IN ASIA WHERE THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES, BECAUSE OF MINORITIES OF A DIFFERENT RACIAL CHARACTERISTIC THAN THE OTHERS.

WHAT ONE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN AN IDEAL WORLD IS A SITUATION WHERE THIS DIDN'T EXIST.

WHAT WE HAVE IN AUSTRALIA IS A SITUATION WHERE THERE IS NO SUCH FEELING AT THE MOMENT AT ALL AGAINST ANYBODY.

WE'D LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY, BUT I THINK THERE WILL NEED TO BE A GRADUAL GROWTH TO MAKE SURE WE AVOID THE PITFALLS, NOT ONLY OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT OF ASIAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. Q. SIR YOU HAVE SAID YOU HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING VIEW ON VIETNAM.

COULD YOU SAY WHETHER YOUR VIEWS ON VIETNAM WERE IDENTICAL WITH SINGAPORE VIEWS ?

A. I THINK THEY WERE VERY CLOSE TOGETHER INDEED, BUT I PREFER THAT ANY COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE SHOULD COME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE.

Q. SIR, DID YOUR DEFENCE DISCUSSIONS WITH MR LEE INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY PRESENCE HERE AFTER THE BRITISH MILITARY WITHDRAWAL ?

A. INCLUDED IN COVERING THESE FIELDS, THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH WAS DISCUSSED.

YES.

Q. DISCUSSED IN A PRACTICAL MANNER, OR JUST GENERAL TERMS ?

A. WOULD YOU MIND ELABORATING ON THAT SO I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT YOU MEAN ?

Q. I WAS TRYING TO SUGGEST SIR, THAT OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A BIG TOPIC WHICH WOULD COME UP.

DID ANY GUARANTEE COME FROM AUSTRALIA ?

A. OH, I SEE.

IT WAS DISCUSSED NO, NO GUARANTEES CAME FROM AUSTRALIA, BUT CLEARLY VARIOUS CONTINGENCIES WERE DISCUSSED AND VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO MEET THE CONTINGENCIES WERE, YOU KNOW THE SUBJECT OF THE CONVERSATIONS, BUT NO 'YOU DO THIS... YES ALL RIGHT ... WE'LL DO THAT''.

NOT THAT KIND OF DISCUSSION, BUT MORE FOR SEEKING TO PIERCE THE VEIL OF THE FUTURE A LITTLE - IF THAT'S THE PROPER WORD -AND TRY AND SAY THAT IF THIS HAPPENS THEN THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, OR IF THAT HAPPENS, THE OTHER MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

LET'S WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS, AND THEN WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER TALK.

7

Q ____PR-IME-MINISTER, JUST ONE QUESZP-

GMAJC-I-IQW____

TGPWXEKZBZVS???

WITALKS WID

WHICH AUSTRALIA CONSIDERED POSED A THREAT TO REGTONAL SECURITY AND WAS MRLEE AGREEABLE

Q. PRIME MINISTER, JUST ONE QUESTION.

IN YOUR TALKS WITH MR LEE, DID YOU OUTLINE THE MAJOR FACTORS WHICH AUSTRALIA CONSIDERED POSED A THREAT TO REGIONAL SECURITY AND WAS MR LEE AGREEABLE WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT OR WERE THERE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE OF EMPHASIS ?

A. I THINK THAT WE WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT.

I THINK AS FAR AS OUR OWN COUNTRY OF AUSTRALIA IS CONCERNED ONE OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION WHICH YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT, THE ONLY THREAT WHICH I THINK EITHER OF US COULD SEE COMING TO AUSTRALIA WAS A FAR-OFF THREAT, AND A THREAT WHICH WOULD ONLY BECOME A REALITY IF SOME POTENTIAL THREAT HAD REACHED REALITY IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

BUT BECAUSE THERE MIGHT BE SOME FAR-OFF THREAT WHICH COULD REACH REALITY IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION THEREFORE IT WAS OF INTEREST TO US TO DISCUSS HOW ONE COULD TRY AND AVOID THAT KIND OF THREAT TO THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION HERE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS OF DOING THAT ALL OF THEM NOT BY ANY MEANS MILITARY BUT SOME OF THEM.

I THINK WE BOTH HAD THE SAME KIND OF APPROACH AS TO THE POSSIBILITY.

THESE CAN ONLY BE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AND AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE IN VARIOUS CONTINGENCIES.

Q. I WAS THINKING, SIR, WHAT PROMPTED THE QUESTION IT SEEMS TO ME THAT AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS CONCERNED WITH COMMUNIST IMPERIALISM - WITH CHINESE IMPERIALISM - IN ME HASLUCK'S TERMS, WHEREAS SINGAPORE SEEMS TO BE CONCERNED THADULAR BTMV GWD BE A REPRODUCTION, A FURTHER OUTBREAK OF INDONESIAN IRRIDENTIST POLICIES WHICH THEY SEEM SO CONCERNED ABOUT. \mathcal{A}

WERE THESE FACTORS TALKED ABOUT ?

A. OH WELL, THESE WERE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. MR PRIME MINISTER, WHEN YOU GO UP TO KUALA LUMPUR THIS AFTERNOON, WILL YOU BE HAVING A BRIEFING FROM MR FAIRHALL AND MR HASLUCK BEFORE YOU MEET THE TUNKU TOMORROW ?

A. WE'RE GETTING THERE ABOUT 5.15 P.M. AND PEOPLE ACCOMPANYING ME HAVE BEEN DOING A BIT OF RINGING UP TO SEE WHETHER MR HASLUCK AND MR FAIRHALL HAVE TIME TO COME ALONG TO HAVE A TALK IN BETWEEN THE CONCLUSION OF WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING, AND GOING TO THE STATE BANQUET.

IT WILL NOT REALLY BE A BRIEFING, BUT IT WOULD BE A CHANCE FOR THE THREE OF US TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN.

IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE A BRIEFING, BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO HARD AND FAST DECISIONS TAKEN BY AUSTRALIA AT THESE FIVE-POWER TALKS AND, THEREFORE, TODAY - WHETHER IT'S IN 10 DAYS' TIME, WON'T BE THOROUGHLY SIGNIFICANT.

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'VE HEARD THE RESULTS OF THE CONVERSATION MR HEWITT HEAD OF MY DEPARTMENT - DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ?

(MR HEWITT). : THEY'LL BE CALLING IN TONIGHT.

A. O.K. THAT'S THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q. YOU ARE GOING TO INDONESIA FROM KUALA LUMPUR ?

A. I'M GOING TO INDONESIA - YES.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY PARTICULAR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN INDONESIA ? WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO ? /ē

A. NO.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY MIGHT BRING UP, BUT THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT IS FIRST TO ALLOW MYSELF TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE RULERS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE REGION .. IN A PERSONAL WAY, AND ALSO TO SHOW THAT WE IN AUSTRALIA REALISE WE ARE CONTIGUOUS TO A PART OF THE REGION AND AFFECTED BY WHAT HAPPENS IN THE REGION, AND TO SHOW THAT THE DEATH OF THE LATE PRIME MINISTER, MR HOLT, DID NOT PUT A STOP TO THIS, THAT THIS IS A CONTINUING INTEREST ON OUR PART.

NOW I HAVE NO DOUBT THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF MATTERS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST WHICH GENERAL SUHARTO MIGHT WISH TO RAISE, BUT I AM NOT GOING THERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING OUT A BRIEF AND SAYING TO HIM ''WELL, WE'D LIKE YOU TO DO THAT OR WOULD YOU LIKE US TO DO THIS'' OR THINGS OF THAT KIND.

0.K. ?

THANK YOU.

ENDS...

CFM: 1385 130 11 JUNE

ENDS: 13/1210LT GMCN