

MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTERS  
OF CANADA AND AUSTRALIA

Joint statement

19 MAY 1970

In the course of his official visit to Australia the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable P. E. Trudeau, M. P., met with Mr. Gorton at Parliament House this morning for official discussions and later with Cabinet Ministers in the Cabinet Room.

The Australian Government expressed great pleasure at the Canadian Government's increasing interest in the Pacific and South East Asian area.

The Prime Ministers' talks affirmed the importance of the closest relations between Australia and Canada. They discussed means of fostering periodic consultations between the two Governments and between Canadian and Australian Ministers and officials. These consultations will bring under review matters of common interest affecting the two countries including those in the economic field, international political developments, multilateral trade and economic conditions as well as the future development of trade, investment and other business activity. The Prime Ministers envisaged these talks also extending to matters relating to cultural exchanges, communications, science, technology and civil aviation. Whilst there would be no fixed timetable for regular meetings it was expected that these discussions would take place either between Ministers or officials not less frequently than every two years alternately in Ottawa and Canberra.

The course of recent events in Cambodia and the Djakarta conference, including the call for the reactivation of the International Control Commission, were brought under review in the course of a discussion of world trends. \* The importance of foreign aid to the stability and the welfare of developing nations and the scope for the development of Australian and Canadian aid programmes in the region were discussed.

The discussions in Ottawa between exporter members of the International Grains Agreement on 4 and 5 May and the problems likely to arise from Britain's negotiations to enter the European Economic Community were reviewed.

Mr. Trudeau reviewed the development of Canada's nuclear power programme and its role in the country's economic and industrial future.

The visit of Mr. Trudeau, following upon Mr. Gorton's official visit to Canada last year, symbolised the essential quality of the historic and friendly relationship between the countries and served to re-emphasise the value to this relationship of continuing exchanges on the many matters of common interest.

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CANBERRA, 19 May, 1970

\* Mr. Trudeau noted that if the International Control Commission were reactivated it would be essential to have its functions clearly defined and effectively supported.