

FOR PRESS



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THE TASMAN PARTNERSHIP

Statement Issued by the Prime Ministers of Australia
and New Zealand at Canberra on 5 June, 1970

(1) We have reviewed the community of purpose which inspires all our dealings as partners across the Tasman. We believe that our two Nations have attained a degree of harmony unique in international relations. We believe also that as our two countries face up to the challenges of a rapidly changing world they must nurture the full strength of this spirit in order that the Australia/New Zealand partnership may attain its highest potential. This joint commitment should not be pursued as an end in itself but rather as a bilateral effort at Government level which will, in turn, reinforce the aspirations of our two peoples to promote a tangible improvement in the climate of international relations. In the final analysis, therefore, the fruits of Trans-Tasman collaboration are intended to benefit the nations with which Australia and New Zealand are associated in the wider search for peace and security in the world.

(2) Over the past year, it has been rewarding for Australians and New Zealanders to join in celebrating the epic voyages of Captain James Cook two centuries ago. After this first common strand in our history there came a parallel sequence of exploration, settlement and economic and social development. Moreover, it is no accident that in times of stress and challenge, the threads of our history have again been intertwined. Our partnership was baptized by the gallantry at Callipoli and during the last world conflict. The Canberra Pact is a continuing pledge by Australia and New Zealand to join their efforts in peace as in war, and thus to forge a lasting bond between the two nations.

(3) It is fitting, therefore, that we should in 1970 meet in this same spirit of partnership to intensify the range of our joint co-operation, for the logic of history and the realities of political and economic geography suggest that Australia and New Zealand should act in close concert one with the other. Indeed, if our two peoples are to fulfil the vocation of nationhood in the modern world, their energies should be harnessed in the most productive way.

(4) In charting the future course of Australia/New Zealand partnership, we continue to be guided by the following principles:

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- (a) On all major matters affecting our common interest, including the conduct of our international relations, whether at the regional level, in the Commonwealth context, in the United Nations or elsewhere, we will continue the closest bilateral consultation : recognising that there are cases in which our national interests may not be indentical or in which we may adopt different approaches to the solution of common problems, the habit of sustained contact between our two Governments assumes special importance.
- (b) In questions of Defence, the co-ordination of effort in areas such as planning, purchasing, standardisation of equipment, training and operational procedures should be regarded as a first priority by our Armed Services.
- (c) In the field of Trade, the good progress made under the aegis of NAFTA should be consolidated and expanded to lead to the maximum flow of trade and the highest practicable degree of economic rationalisation between the two countries in the interests of their national development.
- (d) The administrative effort of both Governments should be directed towards facilitating increased collaboration in all fields.
- (e) Attempts by non-Governmental agencies to promote new areas of Australian/New Zealand co-operation, or to lend greater substance to the wide range of existing contact between our two peoples should be encouraged.

CANBERRA
5 June 1970