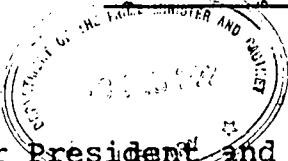


VISIT OF PRESIDENT SOEHARTO

OFFICIAL LUNCHEON, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

Speech by the Prime Minister, Mr William McMahon

7 FEBRUARY 1972

  
Mr President and Madame Soeharto, Presiding Officers, my Ministerial and Parliamentary Colleagues, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Distinguished Guests :

Today, Mr President, we welcome you to Australia and we do so with warmth and with sincerity, not only because you have chosen to come here, but because you are the representative of 130 million Indonesians, and our nearest neighbours, and people for whom we have the greatest friendship and the greatest goodwill.

Now, Sir, this afternoon I want to speak from three different points of view about your visit to Australia today and the few days that are in front of us.

First of all, I want to speak to you about the leader of your country and yourself as a man. Then about our international relationships, the relationships between two great countries, and then the purposes of your visit here now, and in the days to come.

First of all then, as to you as a man. I know you won't mind my saying that you were born to a farming family just outside Jogjakarta, and if fate hadn't intervened, or if history had moved along its normal course, then I haven't the slightest doubt in the world that by now you would have been the head of the Country Party of Indonesia, with probably a deep and permanent influence on the mind and activities of my own Deputy Prime Minister. But fortunately for the world, fortunately for us and fortunately for Indonesia, you decided at a fairly early age that you would enter the Army at the time of the Dutch administration.

And from then on in successive movements, you went to the leadership of the Army and in a way that I would like to stress at this moment. Not only did you move through the brigades and the divisions, but at a very critical time in the history of Indonesia, you became the Supreme Commander of Operational Command. And then later on, you went to a more significant post and that was to the leadership of the Strategic Command of your own country.

And again, I believe on this occasion that Providence intervened and placed you in a decisive position and one in which you were able to exercise your power and influence on the future in a way that no other person in the history of Indonesia had been able to do.

And, Sir, because of those two actions -- your decision to enter the Army, your progress to the supreme leadership, you were, I think, and in fact did, make the decision that saved Indonesia and I think has brought peace, order and goodwill to your own country.

And, Sir, I think I should emphasise that in each of the posts that you have filled you have been in a position where you could exert influence of a different kind as well, because you did take part at the end of the Japanese Occupation. Later on you took part in the decisions relating to the independence of your own country. And then at the crucial moment, at the time of the attempted takeover of Indonesia by elements that were foreign to the wishes of the people of Indonesia, you took control and you have accomplished in a brief space of time what few other men would be capable of achieving.

Sir, in your talks to me this morning, you used the phrase, or if it wasn't you, it was your interpreter who used the phrase -- "a new order". You were, I believe, and I know, not only the architect but the administrator of this programme. And what has it brought to Indonesia?

First, I have to go back again if I can to your history as a farmer, because as you well pointed out to me this morning, that not only do you look at Indonesia from the point of its international politics and its Defence Ministry, but you give primary place in all your thinking to the social welfare and social justice within Indonesia itself.

And, Sir, you have given emphasis to matters that perhaps other people could easily have forgotten. You have stressed the necessity for the average man, woman and child in your own country to have the basic necessities of life -- whether it might be food, whether it might be clothing, whether it might be shelter. And, Sir, I was glad to hear you say this morning that these will remain your primary objectives during the time that you remain the President of your great country.

So, Sir, we compliment you not only for what you have done, but the idealism you have brought to this very difficult task of yours.

Then, Sir, if I look at the changes that have occurred in the period of the new order, few of us could have thought that in a period of what is but a few years, not many years anyhow, few of us could have thought that order could have been created out of chaos. Few of us could have thought that your production would have been increasing as rapidly as it has, and few of us could have thought that you would have brought inflation under control as rapidly and that your trade, Indonesia's trade would be expanding, and gradually you would be placed in a position of being able to pay your own way.

So, Sir, for all these reasons, I think we in Australia appreciate what you have done and it adds warmth to the welcome that I have just conveyed to you on behalf of the Australian people.

Now, Sir, may I turn to our international relationships, the relationships between our two countries, and again on a much wider canvas as you expressed to me this morning, the need for us jointly and co-operatively to play our part in the peace, freedom and independence of all of the peoples of the Asian and Pacific

region.

First of all, Sir, in matters of defence, you know that we are willing and anxious to play our part and to give you assistance, not only in military aid but also where we can in training your own people. And whilst we respect the fact that you want to remain non-aligned and that you want, as far as is humanly practicable to be able to take an attitude of complete independence from the operations of others, nonetheless you do accept the view that when it is in the interest of Indonesia, Australia and the free world, then we can co-operate together in a military area because here we know we are acting in the interests of humanity rather than our own individual interest or own political decisions.

So, Sir, we play our part and I believe we play our part together, too, because we have the same objectives, the same basic principles in our approach to a common solution of our problems and those are -- and again I have an adaptation of your own words -- that you believe, Sir, not so much in establishing a peace zone in a particular area that may perhaps be indefensible, but you do believe in making a maximum contribution to the peace, to the prosperity, the independence and freedom of every country in the region in which both you and I live.

So these, Sir, are the ideals that promote our activities and determine what we should do. And if we look, too, in terms of trade and aid, so far as we are concerned, our trade is improving every day and I hope yours is too. And so far as our aid programmes are concerned, leaving aside our own external territories, there is no country to whom we give greater support and greater assistance than we do to yours. And you very well said to me, as you reminded me this morning, that not only do we make this contribution willingly and freely, but we do it without expecting any repayment, without any prize of any kind at all, and there is no other country that gives quite as generously or quite as freely as we do.

There is only one exception here and that is with Devisa Kredit, and of course with this we have agreed to your recommendations and we have ties associated with this kind of aid,

Similarly, too, if we look at other parts of our programme, I think you can find that there is a willingness in our development programmes to be able to be of assistance. And I well remember when I was in Djakarta probably two years ago, or probably not quite that long ago, I was able to discuss the development of the port of Tjilatjap in the South of Java, that it could be done first of all by a feasibility survey then by development from Australian and other resources. And at that time I was able to tell you and now I confirm what I said then, that Australian manufacturers will be only too happy to go there and are now ready to establish factories if they can find, as I am sure they will, that the opportunities for development are there and that the markets will be able to absorb their products.

And so, Sir, may I turn to the purposes of your visit to my country today. The first one, as I think you will make more than abundantly clear, is that you want to keep the process of goodwill and keep the process of mutual co-operation going. I am certain you will be successful.

The second one is that you want to look at Australian industry to see whether parts of it are suitable to be created and developed in your own country. Again I believe you will be looking at a glass factory in Melbourne, and if I can take notice of one of the people who talked to me on Monday, he will be anxiously looking to see whether he will have the opportunity to develop in your country.

And finally, Sir, again if I can repeat what you said to me this morning, you did refer to the doctrine of Pantjasila. Here in other days, we always referred to it as "Panchsheel", and that is the right of each country to independence and the wish that each country should let its neighbour live in peace and freedom from interference from bigger neighbours and bigger people who have predatory desires against them.

So, Sir, here we are together, joining in common cause with our hearts all set on a common destination and common objectives. I believe if you look at it in this way, I can complete what I want to say to you and to an Australian audience and to an Australian Parliament.

But you can well go home even now, Sir, not that I want you to, and I wouldn't let you, but you could go home and you could have two words prominently in your mind and I think they would be in the minds of most people here today, too; you can go home with Madame Soeharto; you can go home with your friend, Adam Malik, the three of you together can on the plane trip home say "Mission accomplished. We have met with a lot of goodwill. We know they are friends. We know that they will play their part in the development of the free world in that part of the region in which we all have the good fortune to live".

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