

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. E.G. Whitlam, visited New Zealand from 20 to 23 January at the invitation of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Hon. Norman Kirk. The two Prime Ministers had lengthy and intimate discussions on a wide range of issues.

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND COOPERATION

The Prime Ministers noted that their first meeting since they came into office took place on the 29th anniversary of the signing of the Australian-New Zealand Agreement of 1944 - the ANZAC Pact. Although they recognised that parts of that Agreement had been overtaken by events and were less relevant to contemporary needs, the Prime Ministers felt that close consultation and collaboration between Australia and New Zealand were needed in 1973 as they had been in 1944.

The Prime Ministers recognised that a habit of consultation and exchanges had developed between the two countries based on the 1944 Agreement. They took the opportunity to reaffirm the principles of that Agreement. They indicated their intention to work for the closest possible consultation and collaboration on all matters - political, economic, defence, social and cultural - which affected their joint interests, particularly in the South Pacific region.

To this end the Prime Ministers agreed to make every effort to revitalise and further to strengthen the habit of consultation by means of more frequent exchanges between Ministers and regular meetings of officials on both sides of the Tasman. The Prime Ministers agreed that they themselves should meet informally at least once a year for an overall review of relations between Australia and New Zealand.

Economic

Particular attention was paid by the Prime Ministers to the broad principles which should underlie the growing economic relations between Australia and New Zealand. Agreement was reached on the need to broaden the range of consultations on economic matters between both countries and it was decided that officials of both countries would jointly undertake a comprehensive reappraisal of the scope for increased economic cooperation as soon as possible.

The Prime Ministers noted that the New Zealand/Australia Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) of 1965 had been an important instrument in contributing to a growth in trade. However, the objectives of the Agreement

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should not be seen as directed solely to trade expansion but through trade expansion to furthering the economic and social development of the two countries and the use of their resources. The implementation of policies of the two Labour Governments would provide the opportunity for both countries to take a new look at how progress in bilateral trade under NAFTA might become more rapid and effective. The development of NAFTA will be thoroughly reviewed at a Ministerial meeting to be held shortly in Wellington.

The preferential tariff arrangements between the two countries were considered in the light of the imminent termination of their trade agreements with Britain. Agreement was reached that negotiations will proceed about the retention of preferences on a mutually beneficial basis.

The Prime Ministers discussed the impact of the enlarged European Communities on the trading interests of the two countries. It was agreed that this development underlined the need for Australia and New Zealand to work together in the economic sphere. This need was particularly apparent in the case of primary products where the two countries would encourage their marketing organisations to cooperate to the fullest extent possible.

The Prime Ministers noted the good work being done by the Australia/New Zealand Joint Dairy Committee. They agreed on the importance of close cooperation in this sector to meet changes in the world trading patterns arising in particular from the enlargement of the European Communities.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that the successful completion of the coming GATT round of multilateral trade negotiations, particularly in the field of agricultural trade, was of the greatest importance and that the two countries would work together to this end.

Defence Cooperation

The two Prime Ministers noted that there had been close cooperation in defence between Australia and New Zealand ever since World War II, and that it had developed in recent years. They agreed on the importance of continuing, and where practicable furthering, this cooperation, and of assisting each other whenever possible in such fields as personnel, facilities and courses of training, operational and technical matters, and the supply of defence equipment. They noted that studies were being made of the strategic basis of defence cooperation, and that the Australia-New Zealand Consultative Committee on Defence Cooperation would report to the two Governments on this question among others.

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Travel

The Prime Ministers agreed that citizens of each country and citizens of other Commonwealth countries who have resident status in either Australia or New Zealand should henceforth be able to travel between Australia and New Zealand, for permanent or temporary stay, without passports or visas. Talks between immigration officials of the two countries regarding practical arrangements for the implementation of the new policy would take place as soon as possible.

INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS

The two Prime Ministers also discussed a number of international questions of concern to both New Zealand and Australia, on which their two Governments intend to work together as closely as possible.

South Pacific Affairs

The two Prime Ministers recalled the developments of the last 25 years in the South Pacific, many of which owed a good deal to the impetus of the ANZAC Pact of 1944. They expressed satisfaction that the South Pacific Conference now meets annually to approve the work programme of the South Pacific Commission and that in recent years both Australia and New Zealand have been represented at sessions of the Conference by Ministers. The Commission had been strengthened by Western Samoa, Nauru and Fiji becoming full members.

They attached particular value to the South Pacific Forum, which offered the Heads of Government of the independent and self-governing states of the Pacific an opportunity to explore common problems, to consider priorities, and to plan cooperative programmes on a practical basis. Already it had demonstrated its usefulness to the governments concerned.

Both Prime Ministers were planning to attend an early meeting of the Forum. They were very much looking forward to this opportunity of meeting their colleagues, the leaders of the Island states.

Advantage was seen in developing contacts between Parliamentarians in the area, and enabling them to take a wider role in the consultative and planning processes. One possibility which was canvassed was to include Members of Parliament in delegations attending the South Pacific Conference, as was the Australian practice.

The Prime Ministers pledged that their Governments would continue to work to the best of their ability for the progress and advancement of the people of the

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Pacific, guided always by the wishes and aspirations of the people of the area and their leaders.

The Prime Minister of Australia gave an account of recent constitutional and economic developments in Papua New Guinea and forecast an early advance to full self-government, to be followed by independence. The Prime Minister of New Zealand acknowledged the importance of these developments for New Zealand, and, as earnest of the goodwill of the people of New Zealand, indicated that his Government was disposed to establish a diplomatic mission in Port Moresby at an appropriate time.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand said that he was glad to report that Niue would soon be fully self-governing. A delegation from the Niue House of Assembly was expected in Wellington in a few weeks for constitutional talks.

Race Relations

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their belief in the equality of every citizen in a multi-racial society and the right of all to the enjoyment of equal opportunities.

Policies of racial discrimination such as apartheid are directly contrary to the provisions of the United Nations Charter. They are abhorrent and cannot be accepted by the international community. The Prime Ministers agreed that their two countries would strive to implement measures, national and international, which would help to bring to an end all such discriminatory policies.

Asian and Pacific Region

The two Prime Ministers made it clear that New Zealand and Australia stood ready to work with other countries in the Asian and Pacific region to achieve for their peoples the benefits of peace, progress and cooperation.

They recalled that since their Governments came to power Australia and New Zealand had both recognised and established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and they indicated that both were anxious to develop friendly cooperation with that country. The Prime Ministers also recalled that, while New Zealand and Australia had withdrawn their remaining forces from South Vietnam, both Governments had made it clear that they are prepared to take their parts in an international rehabilitation programme throughout Indo-China. They welcomed the progress that had recently been made in the Paris peace talks and expressed the hope that agreement would be reached soon on a settlement fair to all.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that the essential objective was to end the war and the terrible suffering it had caused.

Recognising that changes in the relationships between the great powers and the ending of the war in Indo-China were bound to affect other countries in South East Asia, the two Prime Ministers acknowledged the importance of maintaining stability and confidence in the area while the countries there were adjusting to the new situation. The Prime Ministers noted that Australia and New Zealand forces were in Singapore and Malaysia by agreement with the Governments of those countries. They discussed the future disposition of their forces: they would each consult with their partners in the Five Power Defence Arrangements. They also expressed willingness to discuss with countries in the area what forms of assistance from New Zealand and Australia would be most appropriate and helpful.

The two Prime Ministers expressed understanding and support for the desire of the members of ASEAN to limit outside interference in the affairs of South East Asia, and sympathy for their efforts to make the area a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that effective cooperation in the fields of economic and social development, trade, cultural exchanges and political consultations was at least as important as joint efforts in the defence field in promoting the peaceful progress of the region. The Prime Ministers expressed their intention to work with their Asian and Pacific neighbours in making adjustments to existing arrangements and seeking new forms of cooperation that took full account of the present realities of the situation in Asia and the Pacific. They offered to join in appropriate efforts to bring the countries of the Asian and Pacific region together in a new collective endeavour to promote the wellbeing of their peoples.

The United States

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed the intention of both their Governments to maintain friendly relations with the United States in a spirit of mutual respect and trust. They noted that the ANZUS Treaty symbolised a community of interest and outlook among the three partners that extended to many fields other than defence. By strengthening the security of Australia and New Zealand, the Treaty helps to create a climate that enables the two countries to work with their neighbours and to contribute to the peaceful progress of the Asian and Pacific region in general. There had been occasions on which the policies of the three Governments had

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diverged, and, as they were all sovereign independent states, there might well be other occasions in the future. But such instances need not and should not disturb the friendly ties among the three countries, or their far-ranging cooperation in practical matters.

Nuclear Weapons Testing

The Prime Ministers accorded high priority to the problem posed by continued nuclear weapons testing. They emphasised that their opposition extended to all forms of nuclear weapons testing by whatever nation and reaffirmed the objectives of a suspension of all such testing and the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

They appealed in particular to France to appreciate the special degree of concern which the testing of nuclear weapons in the South Pacific causes throughout the region. They recalled that an overwhelming majority in the United Nations had already acknowledged the legitimate nature of this widespread concern. The Prime Ministers declared their Governments' intention, failing such an assurance, to work together to oppose the tests by all appropriate means and to consult closely with other countries in the region.

Wellington,
New Zealand.
22 January 1973