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AUSTRALIAN/INDONESIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The following is the text of the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the Prime Minister's discussions with President Soeharto in Indonesia:

"The Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable E.G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P., visited Indonesia from 20 to 25 February at the invitation of His Excellency President Soeharto.

Mr Whitlam's visit soon after assuming office as Prime Minister reflected his Government's announced intention to give priority to the strengthening of Australia's relations with Indonesia. President Soeharto welcomed Mr Whitlam's visit to Indonesia because of the importance he attaches to maintaining close understanding with the Australian Government. Mr Whitlam while leader of the Australian Opposition met President Soeharto several times. His first visit to Indonesia as Prime Minister of Australia enabled the two Heads of Government to draw on and consolidate this previous relationship.

President Soeharto and Mr Whitlam value relations of personal confidence. At their wish comprehensive working discussions were the focal point of the visit. The two Heads of Government

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had lengthy private discussions. Their exchange of views was wide-ranging and was marked by cordiality, frankness and harmony. The understanding established between them marked an important advance in relations between Indonesia and Australia.

Mr Whitlam received courtesy calls by the State Minister of Economic, Industrial and Financial Affairs, His Highness Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwon IX, by Foreign Minister Haji Adam Malik and by the Governor of Jakarta, Lieutenant-General Kko Ali Sadikin. He attended working meetings with Ministers and senior officials responsible for economic development and trade and with the Ministers for Defence and Foreign Affairs and senior officers of the Indonesian Armed Forces. Substantive discussions took place on each of these occasions.

Talks during Mr Whitlam's visit covered matters of common interest to Australia and Indonesia. These included the prospects for intensified co-operation in bilateral relations, the situation and outlook in the Asia/Pacific region following the ceasefire agreement in Viet-Nam, and questions likely to arise in the United Nations Security Council to which Indonesia and Australia were both elected at the 27th General Assembly.

Mr Whitlam explained to President Soeharto and his advisers the direction that his Government is seeking to impart to Australian foreign policy. He said this was towards a more independent Australian stance in international affairs firmly based on national identity, social justice, human rights and peaceful regional co-operation, and not open to suggestions of racism.

This broad approach had prompted his Government since coming to office to take a series of initiatives designed to establish Australia's standing as a distinctive, tolerant and co-operative nation in the Asia/Pacific region and in the world at large.

President Soeharto and Mr Whitlam expressed the hope that detente among the great powers would improve the prospects for peace and stability in the South-East Asia region. They welcomed the conclusion of the ceasefire agreement in Viet-Nam and hoped that this would lead to the resolution of differences among the parties in Indo-China by negotiation. Mr Whitlam recognised Indonesia's participation in the ICCS as a positive and valuable contribution towards peace in the South-East Asia region.

President Soeharto explained to Mr Whitlam the development strategy of the new order in Indonesia and its relationship to foreign policy. He said that in accordance with the concept of national resilience, Indonesia was fully harnessing her resources for national development and security. He emphasized Indonesia's wish to have good relations with all countries and the importance of peace and security for Indonesia's development.

President Soeharto said that, through its good neighbour policy, the new order in Indonesia had sought positive and co-operative relations, especially with countries of the region, to bring about favourable conditions for social and economic progress. Indonesia attached great importance to regional co-operation through ASEAN and by means of close bilateral relations with neighbouring countries.

Mr Whitlam welcomed the progress achieved by ASEAN which Australia considers a model of successful regional co-operation in South-East Asia. He said that Australia had followed with interest the initiatives of her ASEAN neighbours to achieve a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia. Australia supported these efforts and would encourage other countries to do likewise. President Soeharto explained to Mr Whitlam his Government's approach to the idea of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, based upon the strengthening of national resilience and co-operation among the member countries of the region so that they maintain effective control of their destinies.

Mr Whitlam discussed with President Soeharto and his advisers the prospects for progress in regional co-operation in Asia. Mr Whitlam affirmed that regional co-operation was a keystone of Australian foreign policy. He looked forward to the eventual emergence of a comprehensive regional organization, without ideological overtones, to help free the Asia/Pacific area from great power intervention and rivalries.

Mr Whitlam said that in canvassing this idea Australia would consult punctiliously with regional neighbours and would be sensitive to their ideas and aspirations. His proposals were preliminary and exploratory. He recognised that new forms of regional co-operation would not be quickly or easily achieved. His ideas were intended to complement ASEAN and were in no way competitive with, or alternative to it.

President Soeharto welcomed Mr Whitlam's objective of the evolution of a widely representative Asian regional organization. The President agreed that, while such a concept was unlikely to come about in the short term, he recognised its potential value in the longer term.

Mr Whitlam addressed a plenary session of the Indonesian Parliament. He was pleased by this opportunity to strengthen relations between the representative institutions of Indonesia and Australia. Mr Whitlam said that he looked forward to a visit this year to Australia by a delegation representing the leadership of the Indonesian Parliament.

President Soeharto and Mr Whitlam noted with satisfaction the progress so far achieved in Australian/Indonesian co-operation in the fields of development assistance and defence. They reviewed several important projects now in course and identified others to be incorporated in future assistance programmes. They agreed that both countries would participate in a joint feasibility study of the development potential in the Cilacap area of Java.

During his discussions with President Soeharto, Mr Whitlam emphasised his Government's commitment to the provision of expanded development assistance to the developing countries of the region to assist them to achieve more prosperous and just societies. Australia's assistance would continue to be directed closely to Indonesia's development priorities. President

Soeharto expressed appreciation for past Australian development assistance and expressed the hope that co-operation between the two countries in this field would continue to reflect the increasingly friendly relations between Australia and Indonesia.

The mutual benefits deriving from trade between the two countries and from Australian investment in Indonesia were discussed. President Soeharto and Mr Whitlam recognised the importance of Australian trade and investment contributing to the economic progress of Indonesia and towards the expansion of Indonesia's export capabilities. Both countries agreed that consideration might be given by Australian investors to increasing the local content in their production wherever economically viable.

The Minister of Economic Financial and Industrial Affairs and the other Economic Ministers outlined Indonesia's economic problems and the way in which Australia could help. The Prime Minister undertook to put these matters to immediate and sympathetic study.

The two leaders agreed to intensify bilateral exchanges and co-operation in cultural affairs. They looked forward to the establishment in Jakarta of the projected Australian cultural centre. Mr Whitlam said that Australia would welcome the establishment by Indonesia of a cultural centre in Australia.

Mr Whitlam informed President Soeharto that Australia would contribute \$A200,000 over five years to the UNESCO Fund for the restoration of Borobudur. This announcement was warmly welcomed by the President.

Mr Whitlam informed President Soeharto of his Government's intention to ratify at an early date the Seabed Boundary Agreements already negotiated between Australia and Indonesia. Both Governments will also ratify as soon as practicable the agreement relating to the boundary between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea which was signed at Jakarta on 12 February, 1973, by Mr Malik on behalf of Indonesia and Mr Somare, the Chief Minister of Papua New Guinea, on behalf of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Mr Whitlam and President Soeharto welcomed the rapid progress of Papua New Guinea towards independence. President Soeharto affirmed Indonesia's intention to open consular representation at Port Moresby and looked forward to the development of close and friendly relations between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Mr Whitlam said that Australia was encouraged by the prospect of close co-operation between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea as neighbours sharing a common land boundary.

President Soeharto and Mr Whitlam noted with satisfaction the broad areas of agreement and prospects for close co-operation between Australia and Indonesia in international organizations, underlined by their concurrent membership of the United Nations Security Council. They agreed that in future representatives of both countries in international bodies and conferences would be instructed to maintain close consultation and to take into account mutual interests in all appropriate issues.

At the conclusion of the official talks, the President of Indonesia and the Australian Prime Minister expressed confidence that in the years ahead the two countries would work together even

more closely and constructively than in the past.

Before leaving Indonesia the Prime Minister and Mrs Whitlam expressed their appreciation for the warmth and cordiality that marked both the official and informal functions during their stay in Indonesia. They said that they would long remember the hospitality and friendship shown to them by Indonesians at all levels. They expressed the hope that President and Madame Soeharto would make a return visit to Australia at a convenient future date."