



**DEPARTMENT OF  
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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MEXICO

The following is the text of the communique issued at the conclusion of the visit to Mexico by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam:-

At the invitation of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr Luis Echevarria, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Gough Whitlam, Q.C., M.P., made an official visit to Mexico from 24 to 28 July 1973. The visit was notable also as the first by an Australian Prime Minister to a country of Latin America.

During the talks which took place between the two leaders, Prime Minister Whitlam and President Echevarria exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest as well as world problems. These exchanges took place in an extremely cordial atmosphere reflecting the growing community of interest between Australia and Mexico, as two Pacific countries

Of particular concern in their discussions were the possibilities that exist of developing and strengthening the relations between Australia and Mexico, having regard to the new policies of the Australian Government which are progressive like those of the Mexican Government.

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The Prime Minister and the President recognised that the different characteristics of Australia and Mexico in no way limit or exclude the possibility of close relations in the fields of cultural, economic and social development, but that on the contrary differences can complement each other, especially in the economic field. In order to bring about such aspirations it was considered appropriate that the two Governments should study ways to overcome the problems inherent in the relatively great distance separating the two countries.

In the light of the problems that face a very important sector of the nations of the world, the President and the Prime Minister expressed their conviction that it is necessary to make further efforts aimed at balancing economic relations between the industrialised countries and the developing countries.

Both leaders declared their conviction that Mexico as well as Australia can play a decisive role in the task of reconstructing on a sound, realistic and equitable basis both international trade and exchange of technology in order that the countries of the Third World may obtain the just benefits which are their due. Prime Minister Whitlam assured President Echevarria that his Government would continue to approach the international meetings concerned with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States in a sympathetic and constructive manner. Both leaders were hopeful that such discussions could lead to a wide agreement making possible the adoption of such an instrument at an early session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Australian Prime Minister referred in terms of warm praise to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The Prime Minister and the President recognised the benefits inherent in the establishment of a nuclear free zone in Latin America. Both leaders reaffirmed their strong opposition to the current and future testing of nuclear weapons, particularly in the atmosphere. The two Governments agreed to cooperate in all appropriate forums to bring all nuclear weapons testing to an end.

In the course of their talks the President and the Prime Minister had a detailed discussion on questions relating to the law of the sea. The Prime Minister took notice with interest of Mexico's position in favor of the patrimonial sea. In this regard they firmly supported the aim of a considerable number of states to exercise exclusive fishery rights in a zone adjacent to the territorial sea up to a distance of 200 miles. They also supported the aim of these states to sovereignty over seabed resources in a wide zone adjacent to their coasts.

In analysing the commercial exchange between Australia and Mexico they noted that this has been reduced and they decided that their Governments should examine the best means of raising trade relations to their existing potential and taking advantage of the complementary character of their respective economies. As an immediate possibility for the increase in trade between the two countries and the benefits therein they agreed that it was necessary to prevent the erection of barriers to trade.

The Prime Minister referred to the new measures

established by his Government to reduce import tariffs, including new preferential arrangements for developing countries.

Mexico will be able to take advantage of these measures to increase opportunities for exports to Australia. Both leaders exchanged points of view on the possibilities to effect co-investment projects in Mexico. To this end the Government of Mexico invited an Australian mission to study, on site, the possibilities that Mexico offers in this area.

Both leaders referred with satisfaction to the close collaboration that had existed between Australia and Mexico for many years in a wide range of international organisations. They decided that such cooperation between the representatives of the two countries should be further intensified. In particular, the President expressed Mexico's satisfaction for the new interest displayed by the Government of Australia in sending representatives to observe conferences concerned with Latin America.

Both leaders considered that it is necessary to encourage tourism between the two countries as well as an exchange of students and young technicians. Their Governments would study the most efficient methods to attain these ends.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that their Governments will proceed immediately to establish the basis for the development of scientific and technical exchanges between Australia and Mexico. The President of Mexico welcomed the suggestion by the Prime Minister of Australia that cooperation between Australia and Mexico, for example in the field of

agricultural science, should be increased immediately. To that end Mr Whitlam, as a first step, extended an invitation to the Government of Mexico to send to Australia, during the period 1973-74, two Mexican graduates to pursue studies in Australia on this field.

The President invited the Prime Minister to send a group of young technicians and professors to make studies at the Commission for the Study of the National Territory (CETENAL). The President and the Prime Minister made reciprocal offers to create scholarships for graduates of different disciplines.

The Prime Minister invited the President to visit Australia. The President accepted the invitation and pending the setting of a date, high level Mexican officials will go to Australia in the near future.