



DEPARTMENT OF  
FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

NO

DATE

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31 October 1973

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WHITLAM/TANAKA JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Below is the text of the communique issued in Tokyo on 30 October 1973 by the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Whitlam and the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Tanaka:

"The Australian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon. E.G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P. accompanied by Mrs Whitlam, paid an official visit to Japan from 26 October until 31 October 1973 at the invitation of the Government of Japan.

During their stay in Japan, Mr and Mrs Whitlam were received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and were given a luncheon at the Imperial Palace.

The Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, and Mrs Tanaka hosted a dinner in honour of Mr and Mrs Whitlam at the official residence of the Prime Minister.

During his stay in Japan, Mr Whitlam had talks with leading Japanese figures in various fields.

Mr and Mrs Whitlam also paid a visit to Nara, where they had an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the traditional culture of Japan.

Mr Whitlam attended, as the leader of the Australian Delegation, the 2nd meeting of the Australia-Japan Ministerial Committee which was held in Tokyo on 29 and 30 October.

Mr Whitlam had valuable exchanges of views with the Prime Minister, Mr Tanaka, and with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Masayoshi Ohira, on a wide range of major issues of mutual concern in the current international situation.

These talks were held in a warm and frank atmosphere reflecting the close and friendly relationship between the two countries.

The Ministers welcomed the Security Council Resolutions 338, 339 and 340 of October 1973 adopted for an immediate and complete ceasefire in the Middle East.

The Ministers further emphasised the need for prompt action to implement in all its aspects Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, which in their view continued to provide the best basis for a just and durable settlement in the Middle East. *Middle East*

The Ministers, taking note of the new situation in the Asian and Pacific region in which the two countries are located, and noting the signs of the relaxation of tension in the Asian and Pacific region, agreed that the two governments should cooperate with each other for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region which has an important bearing on world peace.

The Ministers also noted that, in the new and changing situation in the Asian and Pacific region, regional cooperation would play an increasingly important part in the progress and development of the region. *Asian Pacific*

The Ministers agreed that the two governments should contribute to the promotion of regional cooperation and the enhancement of the spirit of solidarity, and thereby should endeavour to meet the needs and interests of the countries in the region.

In this context, the Ministers noted with satisfaction the participation of Australia in the Ministerial Conference for Economic Development of South East Asia which was recently held in Tokyo.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet-Nam signed in Paris on 27 January 1973, and also at the agreement on restoring peace and realising national concord in Laos of 21 February 1973, and the protocol to that agreement signed on 14 September 1973. *Vietnam*

The Ministers reaffirmed that all provisions of the agreements should be observed and implemented scrupulously

so as to open the way to a lasting peace in all the countries of Indo-China, and to enable the peoples of those countries to settle their affairs themselves peacefully without outside interference.

The Ministers agreed that in order to secure peace and stability in Indo-China, there was an urgent and strong need for all countries to extend humanitarian and economic assistance to this region.

The Ministers affirmed the importance they attach to the preservation of peace in the Korean Peninsula.

The Ministers welcomed the new developments in the Korean Peninsula, and expressed the readiness of their governments to contribute to the furtherance of peace and stability in that area.

The Ministers recognised the importance of promoting disarmament under effective international control, in particular further effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and expressed their determination to work for lasting world peace.

*Nuclear  
Disarmament*

In this connection they reaffirmed their strong opposition to the conduct of all nuclear weapons tests, particularly in the atmosphere, by whatever nation.

The Ministers, reviewing the relations between Australia and Japan expressed their satisfaction with the fact that cordial and friendly relations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields continued to develop.

The Ministers agreed that the two governments, with a view to further promoting cooperation and mutual understanding between the two countries, should consult together on various questions of mutual interest.

It was agreed that the two governments would begin discussions on a broad bilateral treaty which would help to formalise stabilise and broaden relations between Australia and Japan in the economic and related fields.

The Ministers discussed a wide range of economic issues of mutual interest including development and trade of mineral and energy resources, trade of foodstuffs and agricultural products, and conditions for business activities and investment.

The Ministers agreed that it was essential for the prosperity of both countries to promote further cooperative relations between the two countries in the broadest possible area on the basis of mutual benefit and advantage.

The Ministers, taking note of the development of broad exchanges not only in the political and economic fields but also in the cultural and academic spheres and a marked increase of mutual interest therein, were at one in their view that these cultural exchanges should further be promoted in order to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries.

To this end, the Ministers recognised the necessity of concluding a cultural agreement between the two countries, and agreed that negotiations for that purpose should be commenced at a mutually convenient time.

*Cultural Agreement*

The Ministers, cognizant of the need for increased contacts between the two countries in the fields of the protection of nature and the preservation of the human environment, agreed to commence, as a first step in cooperation to that end, negotiations to conclude a treaty on the protection of migratory and other birds.

*migratory birds*

Mr Whitlam expressed his deep appreciation to the government and the people of Japan for the very warm welcome extended to him, his wife and members of his party during their stay in Japan.

Mr Whitlam extended a cordial invitation, in the name of the Government of Australia, for Mr Tanaka to visit Australia.

This invitation was accepted with appreciation.

The date of the visit is to be decided later through normal diplomatic channels."