

Yugoslavia

Speech by the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Mr Dzemal Bijedic, at a dinner in honour of the Prime Minister of Australia in Belgrade on 9 January 1975

It gives me particular pleasure to have this opportunity to greet in our midst, on behalf of the Government and the peoples of Yugoslavia, and in my own, the highly prominent statesman and Prime Minister of friendly Australia, His Excellency Mr Edward Gough Whitlam, Mrs Whitlam and the distinguished members of his party, and to wish them a sincere welcome and an enjoyable stay in our country. We will endeavour, at least partly, to reciprocate the hospitality extended me and my associates during our visit to the beautiful country of Australia.

I am confident that I also share your views in saying, Mr Prime Minister, that our relations have been developing ever more successfully during the past years and that your visit will encourage their further promotion, enrichment with new forms and substance and extension to new fields. We wish such a development of relations and we will, on our part, exert efforts in that direction. Yugoslavia has consistently adhered to its policy of co-operation with all states on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty, non-interference and mutual interests. We are convinced that along these bases it is possible to develop diversified and long-term co-operation between our two countries.

Your visit is taking place at a time when in many quarters of the world, despite substantive results achieved in the sphere of the policy of relaxation of tensions and negotiation, the situation is becoming more complicated, and is seriously deteriorating. The danger of a new outbreak of conflict in the Middle East is imminent due to the persistent aggressive and expansionist policy pursued by Israel, which

constitutes a direct dramatic challenge to world peace. For this reason it is vital for the international community to exert efforts, as a matter of utmost urgency, towards having the crisis in the Middle East resolved on the basis of the sole possible premises which, for that matter, have been widely accepted: Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the full realisation of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including the right to establish a state of their own, a right enjoyed by all the peoples in the world. In fact, this right has received broad support during the past session of the United Nations General Assembly. This is the only possible way to achieve peace in this part of the world on just and lasting foundations and to ensure independence and security of all the peoples and countries in the region.

As regards the Cyprus crisis, we are of the opinion that the implementation of the resolution of the United Nations—which was supported by all member states of the United Nations—constitutes the only basis for finding a durable settlement acceptable to both ethnic communities. The slow progress in solving the Cyprus crisis and its persistence constitutes a source of danger both for Cyprus proper and for peace in the broader area.

In Viet-Nam, the Paris Agreements continue to be violated by the Saigon regime. It is in the interest of stability and peace to secure full and strict implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreements and respect for the right of the people of Viet-Nam to decide their own future in sovereignty, freedom and independence.

In the present-day ever more complex and increasingly uncertain international situation, the co-operation of all forces of progress, peace and liberation is vital so as to consolidate and render international relations more democratic, to resolve outstanding international issues and obtaining crises by giving substance to the legitimate aspirations of all peoples toward freedom, independence and establishment of equitable international co-operation. It is only on such premises that a durable and just peace for all countries and peoples can be reached. The non-aligned countries which, in co-operation with other developing countries, have rendered an invaluable contribution to such a development, are willing to co-operate with all countries and with all forces having identical goals. The world-wide easing of tensions in specific spheres of international relations is in the interest of all countries. Detente, however, in order to evolve into a world process and lead to a genuine peace, must extend to all parts of the world. Likewise, it is essential that all countries should participate on an equal footing in the resolution of international problems.

Mr Prime Minister, the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations has demonstrated the necessity for establishing a new economic order and equitable economic relations in the world. The prevailing situation clearly indicates the untenability of existing economic relations in the world based on exploitation of the majority of mankind, on inequity and privileges of the developed countries. All this testifies to the indispensability of essential changes in the existing system along the lines accepted by the entire international community. The non-aligned and the developing countries have offered a constructive program pledging necessary changes while respecting the interests of all countries and taking into account the growing interdependence in the world. Regrettably, all international factors have not accepted the outstretched hand and are attempting to preserve obsolete relations and existing privileges through imposition and confrontation.

We are following with keenest attention the activity of your country and your personal endeavours on the international scene. Yugoslavia highly appreciates the constructive role which

Australia is playing in the efforts to achieve assertion of the principles of equitable co-operation, and your contribution to the constructive approach in dealing with international problems, by recognising the new realities in the world and the necessity of its continuous change. We feel that these are sound bases for our co-operation.

Dear Friend, the large number of Yugoslav emigrants living in Australia, represents a special link between Yugoslavia and Australia. They have found in your country a home away from home and, as loyal citizens of Australia, by working diligently, are making their contribution to its development and prosperity.

During our visit to Australia we were able to see for ourselves that their work and role are held in high esteem in Australian society, as well as their contribution to the promotion of friendly relations between our two countries.

It is no secret, however, that there are also extremist elements who oppose such co-operation. I take this opportunity to reiterate that the Government of Yugoslavia values the efforts by the Australian side which have been made towards curbing fascist-terrorist activities of small groups and individuals in the Australian territory. We hope that these efforts will continue and that they will be intensified as this terrorism is directed not only against Yugoslavia, but also against Yugoslav-Australian friendly co-operation and all the democratic forces in the world. As an expression of the past it constitutes a vestige of the fascist forces which had been condemned by the international community and whose activity is a subject matter being dealt with by the United Nations. Turning ourselves towards the future, it is our wish to build new bridges so that our mutual co-operation may become even closer. I wish particularly to emphasise that our migrants should be a link of friendship and co-operation between our countries. Our bilateral relations are becoming increasingly comprehensive. However, there still exist numerous unexploited possibilities for their further and more meaningful expansion both in the sphere of political and scientific-technical and cultural co-operation. In particular, in the economic co-operation which is lagging far behind the real possibilities.

In the prevailing conditions of an ever greater interlinking in the world, every constructive and fruitful co-operation between countries, regardless of how distant they may be, constitutes a positive and effective contribution to the improvement of overall international relations.

Speech by the Prime Minister of Australia at a dinner given in his honour by the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia in Belgrade on 9 January 1975

It gives me great satisfaction to come to Yugoslavia and reciprocate the historic visit which you, Mr Prime Minister, paid to Australia in March 1973. Your visit was the first to Australia by a Prime Minister of Yugoslavia: mine is the first by an Australian Prime Minister to your country. Yet sixty years have passed since our soldiers first fought together in World War I. Australia's involvement in the Balkans led to one of the most significant military actions in our history. Australians admire the proud traditions of independence of the Yugoslav peoples. We admire the heroism with which you resisted great power domination in the First World War and fascist aggression in the Second. We admire the determination with which you have continued to assert your independence under the leadership of President Tito. I salute your President as one of the outstanding statesmen of our time—the builder, the inspiration, not only of a nation, but of a great world movement for peace and human brotherhood. Under his guidance, your country has become an authentic symbol of the hopes of millions of people in the developing world for peace, progress and independence.

When my Government took office in December 1972, it was faced with a world in which dramatic changes in international relationships had created not only new complexities in international affairs, but also new opportunities and challenges. At that time I stated: The change of government provides a new opportunity for us to reassess the whole range of Australian foreign policies and attitudes . . . our thinking is towards a more independent Australian stance in international affairs and towards an Australia which will be less militarily oriented and not open to suggestions of racism: an Australia which will enjoy a growing standing as a distinctive, tolerant, co-operative and well-regarded nation not only in the Asian and Pacific region but in the world at large.

The basis of Australian policy remains the com-

mitment to independence, to the right of all countries to manage their affairs in their own way, without interference. It is because of this commitment that Australia, while maintaining its traditional friendships, has recognised the need to develop its own contacts with all countries, regardless of their political systems, and take account of their views in formulating its own policies. Independence does not mean the assertion of purely national self-interest. In our increasingly complex and interdependent world, no state can seek to impose its own views on others. With the right to independence and equality goes the duty of international co-operation, the duty to strive for the removal of the causes of tension and conflict in all fields and in all regions.

Perhaps no country has supported and practised these principles more than Yugoslavia. You have made an outstanding contribution to international co-operation both in the United Nations and elsewhere. Indeed there can be few countries which, in their national Constitutions, have committed themselves so firmly to the principles of the United Nations Charter. Yugoslavia's approach in international relations seems to be best manifested in its commitment to non-alignment, a concept which embodies the principles of independence and international co-operation: a concept which President Tito was instrumental in formulating and in which he remains the dynamic force.

There are encouraging signs that the world community is beginning to work for global solutions to the problems of poverty, hunger, economic deprivation and the threat of war. The United Nations Sixth Special Session and the World Food Conference demonstrated a renewed international commitment to the problems of the disadvantaged. This impetus towards international co-operation, this retreat from isolationism, must be sustained. Too often in the past, opportunities for peaceful development have been passed over by the inter-

national community. We have failed to grasp opportunities to set the world on the path to peace: We have failed to eliminate the threat of war: we have failed to regulate the development and proliferation of the instruments of war. The threat posed by the production and proliferation of nuclear weapons is the most awesome ever posed to the future of mankind. The development of measures to eliminate the threat of nuclear war is therefore the most pressing issue which confronts us.

The issues which symbolise the change in Australian foreign policy under my Government—and the increasing similarity of approach between Australia and Yugoslavia—are colonialism and racism. It is my conviction that the most significant historical trend since the Second World War has been the struggle to end imperialism, colonialism and racial discrimination. One of my first actions after coming to power was to instruct our representatives at the United Nations to add Australia's voice to the international condemnation of colonialism and racism. We have supported all actions in the United Nations against the illegal racist regime in Rhodesia and against the infamous policy of apartheid. Recently Australia voted in the Security Council for the expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations for its twenty-eight-year-long flouting of the most basic principles of the Charter: we have joined the United Nations Council on Namibia: reactivated our membership of the United Nations Committee of Twenty-four: and are providing assistance to subject peoples in their fight for liberation.

In pursuing more independent policies, my Government has sought to identify the common interests which Australia shares with a broad range of countries. Australia straddles many of the categories which are often used to distinguish countries—namely, the developed from the developing, the rich from the poor, the second from the third world, the producers from the consumers, the aligned from the non-aligned. Ours is a developed country, yet the foundations of much of our prosperity on primary production and the export of minerals has made us conscious of the problems faced by both producers and consumers. As a predominantly European community in the Asian and Pacific region, we are conscious of the pressing requirements of our neighbours.

As a comparatively rich country, we accept the responsibility of extending assistance to the developing countries. Bound by treaty to the United States, we nonetheless respect and seek to understand further the views of those countries which have chosen to espouse non-alignment.

The bilateral relations between Australia and Yugoslavia are strong and cordial. My visit will help to strengthen them. Many migrants of Yugoslav origin live in Australia. Their skills and initiative have contributed to Australia's progress and form an enduring bond between our nations. I believe, Mr Prime Minister, that after your visit to Australia you were satisfied that my Government is determined to do all in its power to prevent and punish criminal acts of terrorism directed against Yugoslavia by a small minority of malcontents and undesirables. You may be assured that we will hold firmly to our commitment.

Trade between our countries is growing and there is every sign that it will grow further. It is my hope that we shall soon enter into long-term agreements for increased trade. I hope to see a greatly increased flow of private business, officials and experts between our two countries. Recent negotiations leading to the conclusion of a bilateral civil aviation agreement covering flights of your national airline to Australia and ours to Belgrade is a positive contribution to this goal. Negotiations for the conclusion of a Cultural Agreement are well advanced.

The relationship between Australia and Yugoslavia is based on an affinity of views on the fundamentals of the international order. An interdependent world demands co-operation rather than confrontation: and no state, however great, should threaten the independence of another state, however small. These shared beliefs, and the opportunities and demands presented by a troubled world, form the basis of a friendship that will be healthy and beneficial for our two countries, and a constructive contribution to the wider needs of peace and understanding in the world.

Speech by President Tito of Yugoslavia at a luncheon in honour of the Prime Minister of Australia in Belgrade on 10 January 1975

I would like to express the great pleasure, of my wife, Jovanka, of myself and of all of us, to have you all here as our guests today. You have come from a far-away country geographically but one close-by in terms of aspirations and outlook on the world, in terms of efforts for the best possible relations throughout the entire world, in terms of eliminating, as soon as possible, the various negative features which even today are still burdening our world.

Many of our countrymen live in your country . . . some arrived before the last war, and others immediately after that war, but these are two categories of people who differ in many

ways. Those who originally left Yugoslavia to go to your country did so because of economic need, because they lived in great poverty. But among those who went immediately after the last war, there were those who were traitors, who had collaborated with the occupiers and committed terrible crimes—crimes you and your people did not know about. Naturally these two categories of our people who found a home in your friendly country had to come into conflict and to hate each other, to a situation which was not in the interest of our two countries. I know that you, personally, Mr Prime Minister, and your Government, have done a great favour to us by realising that it is not all the same who

The Prime Minister in talks in Belgrade with the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia. Mr Bijedic.

