

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

It is, indeed, a very great honor for us to have been received here by you, to have talked with you at such length and to have been shown such hospitality and kindness. Our countries have ties between them which reach back across two full generations. We began our co-operation back at the start of the World War I, and this co-operation was continued later during the course of World War II when Yugoslavia represented the only country in the whole of Europe which rebelled and fought against the occupiers.

You, Mr President, belong to a group of older statesmen, distinguished men, who in their day rebelled with determination and who, in the end, won freedom for their people. This obligation you took on has been understood by you not just as an obligation to your people, but as one to the whole of mankind because you are among those who have demonstrated by your example and your acts, and, in the end, proved, the way in which freedom can be preserved and must be defended.

Mr President, you have mentioned the hundreds of thousands of Yugoslavs who today live in Australia and you have also made note of certain problems which, from time to time, have come up in Australia itself and been the cause of difficulties in relations between Yugoslavia and Australia. These difficulties were created by just one, very small, group of people who betrayed their country during its most difficult moments, and then came to make difficulties in the country where they had chosen to make their homes. However, I want to assure you that the majority of Yugoslavs living in Australia today are very solid citizens. They are proud of their earlier homeland and they are loyal to their present country. Of course, the largest group of people in Australia's present-day population are of British descent. Next are those of Italian descent, and then, just behind, the Yugoslavs.

Because increasingly intensive relations and co-operation exist between our two countries

and because hundreds of thousands of your people already live in Australia, I am convinced—entirely sure—that all this must lead to better understanding and the development of better relations between our two countries. Yugoslavia is a highly diversified country. Different parts of your country were at different times under the occupation of different powers and countries. You have had different internal administrations within the framework of the country itself, and quite a few differences, likewise, in cultures. However, I must state that among the Yugoslavs living in Australia today a pride and satisfaction is to be noted at belonging to one unified Yugoslav community which was achieved thanks to your leadership.

comes from Yugoslavia, by realising that the activity of those people who had done much harm here must be thwarted, at least in your country in order to provide peace for those who went to work there honestly as citizens of Australia.

You have helped greatly to improve the situation in this respect. It goes without saying, Mr Prime Minister, that all those who emigrated soon after the war are not negative; many people wish to forget the past and to work peacefully in your country. We have no objection to such people. Today, too, some of our people leave for your country. We put no obstacles in anybody's way, each may go where he wishes. These are Yugoslav citizens, honest people, and I am convinced that they, in your country too, will be equally good citizens, who will work in the interest of their new homeland — Australia. Many of them will return. You said, a while ago, that some of these people have vacation homes, small villas, on the Dalmatian Coast, and I think this is very nice. Such people are a bridge of friendship between our two countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my satisfaction with the fact, also, that on many international questions we hold identical views. Our co-operation at the United Nations is very good. I think that many more possibilities exist, too, in other areas such as, let us say, the economic, to expand our co-operation. We import many raw materials from you, and Yugoslavia, for its part, has many things that it can export to your country. It would be a good thing for us to export more, too, because the economies of our two countries are complementary and possibilities really do exist for us to expand this co-operation.

Your visit to Yugoslavia, unfortunately, is very short. Furthermore, the weather at present here is not pleasant. Therefore, we hope that you will come to Yugoslavia when it is more at its best, warmer weather, and when you will be able to see more, including the beauties of our Adriatic. It is our hope, also, that as many as possible of your citizens will come to Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia today is a tourist country, very attractive to many, and so it will be a pleasure for us to have as many guests as possible from friendly Australia. In ending, I would like, Dear Friend, to emphasise once again how happy we

are to have you with us today. I, myself, have wanted to meet you, to see you, because I had heard a great deal of the best about you, and I know that you are a friend of our country, as are your wife and associates. May I express the hope, Dear Friend, and Mrs Whitlam, that you will take the very best impressions with you when you leave our country. Australia is known in Yugoslavia as a friendly and progressive country whose aspiration it is to build as good and happy a life as possible where many people from Yugoslavia are working and making their contribution.

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.



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.