

Joint Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the visit by the Prime Minister of Australia to the USSR on 16 January 1975

At the invitation of the Soviet Government the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. E. G. Whitlam, paid an official visit to the USSR from 12 to 16 January 1975.

During his stay in the Soviet Union Mr Whitlam and his party visited Moscow and Leningrad.

They had an opportunity to see how the Soviet people live and work, as well as to acquaint themselves with their achievements in the fields of economics, science, education and culture.

The Prime Minister of Australia laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow and at the Piskarovskoye Memorial Cemetery in Leningrad.

The Prime Minister and his party were everywhere accorded a warm welcome and generous hospitality.

The Prime Minister of Australia, E. G. Whitlam, was received by the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, N. V. Podgorny.

In the talks which took place between the Chairman of the Soviet of Ministers of the USSR, A. N. Kosygin, the First Deputy Chairman of the Soviet of Ministers, K. T. Mazurov and the Prime Minister of Australia, E. G. Whitlam, there took part:

On the Soviet side—the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V. V. Kuznetsov; the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR, M. R. Kuzmin; and other officials.

On the Australian side—the Special Minister of State, the Hon. L. F. Bowen; the Ambassador of Australia to the USSR, Sir James Plimsoll; the Secretary of the Department of Minerals and Energy, Sir Lenox Hewitt; the Secretary of the Department of Overseas Trade, Mr D. H. McKay; the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr R. A. Woolcott; and the

Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr G. J. Yeend.

During the talks which were held in a business-like atmosphere and in a spirit of mutual understanding, the parties had a constructive exchange of opinions on major international issues of mutual interest as well as on matters concerning Soviet-Australian relations and the prospects of their development.

Both sides noted that the positions of the Soviet Union and Australia coincided or were close on a number of important international problems.

They noted the significant developments which had taken place in recent years towards strengthening international peace and co-operation and consolidating the spirit of detente in international relations.

Both sides agreed to make every effort to ensure that relaxation of tension spread to all regions of the world and that the steady progress towards detente became irreversible.

Both parties noted the importance of the agreements and arrangements concluded between the USSR and the USA, directed at the further improvement of the international climate and, above all, the importance of the agreements on the prevention of a nuclear war and the limitation of strategic arms.

The Soviet Union and Australia note with satisfaction the considerable advances towards strengthening security and developing peaceful co-operation in Europe and express their hope that the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe will be successfully concluded in the near future.

The Soviet Union and Australia attach great importance to strengthening peace and stability in Asia and expressed their determination to contribute in every possible way to relaxing tensions further, to ensuring security and to creating conditions for making Asia a continent

extent of your interests. Such power, such interests, bring with them great responsibilities. Australia looks to the superpowers to maintain the utmost mutual restraint in their relations with each other and towards other nations. On such restraint peace and progress ultimately depend. We look to you for responsible leadership and action to meet the urgent global problems of human need and suffering. Thus we hope, for example, that the Soviet Union and the United States will co-operate in an adequate international system of grain reserves to alleviate the uncertainties and shortages of supplies in world food resources.

The other great area of responsibility which attaches to the great powers is the nuclear arms race and the increasing risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. I expressed Australia's deep concern on these vital issues, and outlined some positive steps which the international community could take to meet these challenges, in my address to the last session of the United Nations General Assembly. Statements by many other leaders reflected the same grave apprehensions and concern. My Government has declared its commitment to practical and effective international disarmament measures. We have ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and subsequently concluded the Mandatory Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Yet we observe some flagging of international concern over the consequences of nuclear proliferation. We are disappointed by the lack of universal support in our own and other regions for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which we consider the essential foundation for a safer world. Perhaps we have lived in the shadow of mutual destruction for so long that we have become accustomed to it. Can we dare to be complacent about our very survival?

Since raising our concern for these issues at the United Nations I have visited each of the three depository powers of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In Washington three months ago, in London in December, and now here in Moscow. I have made the same point. We look to the depository states to maintain international interest in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to promote and enlarge its membership. In this year of the NPT Review Conference we see a special op-

portunity to revitalise the commitments undertaken in this treaty, to strengthen the basis of peace and awaken us from the nightmare of a world in which nuclear weapons are widespread. I was glad to note that in the historic Vladivostok communique of 24 November, Comrade Brezhnev and President Ford stressed the importance of increasing the effectiveness of the Treaty. We therefore look confidently to the Soviet Union for constructive leadership on this issue, not only by virtue of your special position in relation to the Treaty, but because of your important role as Co-Chairman of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

Mr President, I have spoken frankly on matters of great consequence to us all. Nothing less would have been appropriate to the dignity of this unique occasion. Nothing less would adequately have reflected the true nature of our relations. These relations are now—though unhappily they have not always been—characterised by greater frankness, by greater realism, by greater seriousness, by greater understanding. My visit will serve to strengthen this understanding and bring our peoples much closer together. For example, I shall be signing agreements between the Soviet Union and Australia on science and technology and on cultural exchanges. We have much to learn from you in the scientific and technical fields, you I hope may have something to learn from us. We warmly welcome the prospect of a Cultural Agreement between us. Australians deeply respect and admire the culture of the Soviet people—the glorious fruits of which I have seen and heard at first hand during my present visit to the Soviet Union.

In these and other ways we shall develop the range of contacts between us. A world in which states, regardless of their different social systems, can communicate their views and interests clearly and confidently is a world more amenable to peaceful change and peaceable policies. I regard the relations between our countries as a constructive element in the creation of such a world. I regard my visit to your country, and the warm hospitality you have extended to me and my party, as an important contribution to the strengthening of friendship between the Soviet and Australian peoples.

of peace through the co-operative efforts of the states of the region.

Both sides emphasised the necessity of strict observance by all parties of the Paris Agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet-Nam.

They welcomed concrete measures to implement the Agreement on restoring peace and achieving national accord in Laos and expressed themselves in favour of a just settlement of the Cambodian problem with full consideration of the national interests and legitimate rights of the people of Cambodia without any outside interference.

The parties noted that on the sub-continent of South Asia progress has been made in the normalisation of the situation in this region, which corresponds to the interests of consolidating peace and security, and establishing true good-neighbourliness in South Asia.

Both sides expressed their readiness to participate, together with all interested states on an

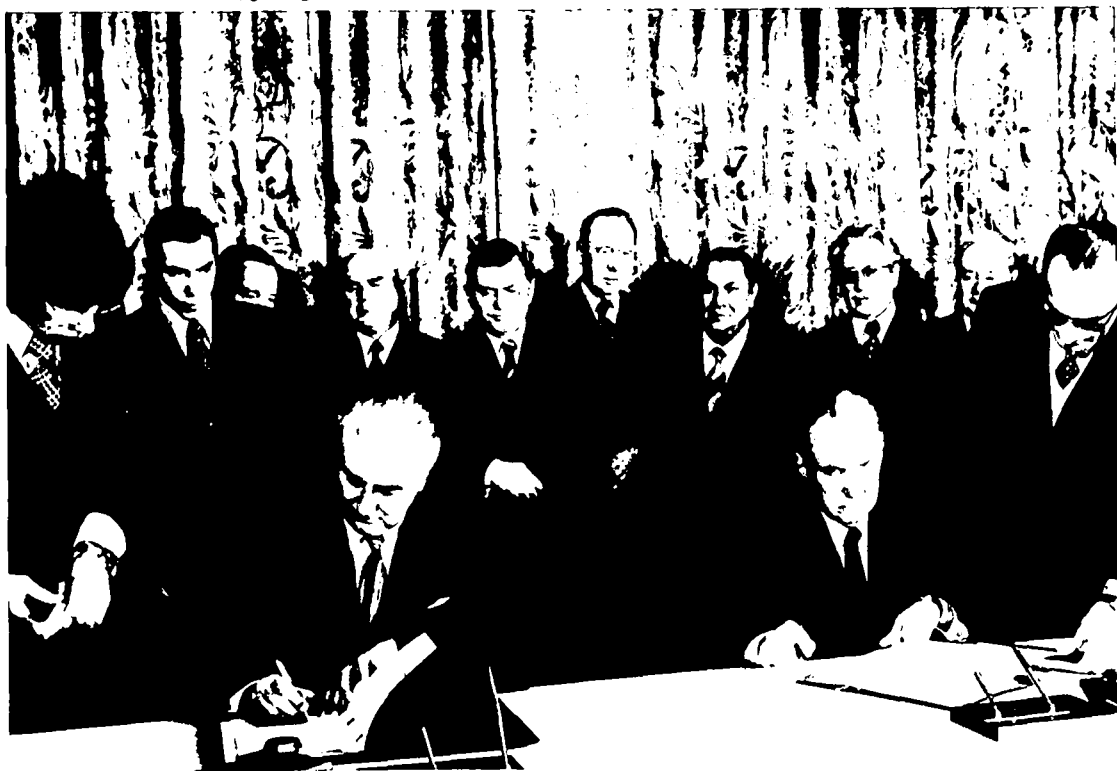
equal basis, in seeking a favourable solution to the problem of making the Indian Ocean an area of peace in accordance with the principals of international law.

In the course of the exchange of opinions on the situation in the Middle East, the parties emphasised the necessity to achieve as soon as possible a just and stable settlement in that region on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, including realising the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, as well as on the basis of ensuring the security and independence of all states of the region.

The parties express their hope that the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East will resume its work as soon as possible.

The Soviet Union and Australia proceed from the assumption that the cessation of the arms race, the achievement of general and complete disarmament covering both nuclear and conventional weapons, under strict and effective

Mr Whitlam and Mr Kosygin sign the Scientific and Cultural Agreements.



international control, would be of paramount importance for a fundamental improvement of the international situation.

They believe that the convocation of a world disarmament conference may contribute to the practical solution of the pressing problems of disarmament.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their determination to work for its effective and universal implementation.

They share the opinion that it is necessary to agree as soon as possible on the full ban of all tests of nuclear weapons by all states, and also on the ban on chemical weapons.

The Soviet Union and Australia attach great importance to the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and any other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.

The parties noted that their positions on the main issues of the law of the sea were close.

Considering the conference on the law of the sea to be of great importance they expressed themselves in favour of adopting constructive decisions in this field on an international basis with due regard for the interest of all states.

Both sides declared their resolution to promote the increased effectiveness of the United Nations on the basis of strict observance of its Charter.

They believe that the main efforts of the United Nations must be directed to promoting the consolidation of the relaxation of international tension, to strengthening international peace and security, and to the development of fruitful co-operation among states.

During the talks, questions of Soviet-Australian relations were thoroughly discussed.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the favourable development of relations between the USSR and Australia in recent years and reaffirmed their determination to widen further mutually advantageous co-operation on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence,

respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equal and mutually beneficial co-operation.

The parties attach great importance to expanding contacts between state and political leaders of both countries.

They underlined the usefulness of further political consultations at various levels on matters concerning both bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest.

It was agreed to continue this practice in future.

The parties consider that there are favourable possibilities to increase the volume of trade and the range of goods to be exchanged in both directions to mutual advantage.

The two sides acknowledged the advantages which have flowed from the Trade Agreement signed in 1973.

They noted particularly the part which the mixed Commission, set up under that Agreement, is playing in developing trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The parties exchanged views on prospects for the development of co-operation in other fields, including agriculture, energy and mineral resources, fisheries, maritime navigation, air communications and also in the field of Antarctic and world ocean studies.

During the visit, the parties signed an Agreement on scientific and technical co-operation.

They noted that preliminary steps had already been taken towards identifying particular areas in which co-operation would be developed under the Agreement.

A series of mutual visits by scientists of both countries was already in progress.

The parties also signed an Agreement on cultural co-operation between the two countries which will establish a sound foundation for further development of Soviet-Australian ties in the fields of culture, education and sports.

The Soviet and Australian sides noted with satisfaction that the talks and discussions which took place during the visit of Prime Minister Whitlam to the Soviet Union were useful and would make a considerable contribution to the



The Prime Minister with the Mayor of Bonn, Mr Kraemer.

further development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Australia.

On behalf of the Australian Government, Prime Minister Whitlam invited the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr A. N. Kosygin, to make an official visit to Australia.

The invitation was accepted with satisfaction at a time to be agreed upon.