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## PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER  
BASIC TREATY SIGNING CEREMONY

17 JUNE 1976

This is an occasion born of goodwill and mutual interests.

On Australia's part this Treaty is a recognition of the high respect we have for Japan and of the confidence we place in Japan for the future.

The signing of this Basic Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation marks the deepening relationship between Australia and Japan. That relationship has developed over many years. This Treaty provides a firm basis for its future growth.

In the past Australia and Japan have been linked largely by our commercial ties - ties which are of great benefit to us both. The Treaty recognises the importance of our commercial interdependence, and our mutual interests in each being a reliable supplier to and market for the other. The Treaty is an indication of our mutual desire to secure and strengthen that relationship.

Australia welcomes also the prospect of broadening our relations - beyond the purely commercial - to scientific, cultural, education and other fields.

Two peoples whose futures are as closely linked as ours ought to have a deeper understanding of each other.

Committed as we are to democratic institutions and to respect for each person, increased contact across the range of interests of our peoples can be expected to strengthen understanding of each other.

As an indication of our desire to see these links develop we have recently established the Australia-Japan Foundation. We place great importance on its work. The Foundation will conduct programmes aimed at expanding the links between the people of Australia and Japan.

The Treaty also commits both countries to facilitating travel between us.

The Treaty does not imply, in any sense, an exclusive relationship. Both Japan and Australia have an increasingly important role to play in the future in the Asia-Pacific region. The greater understanding and the closer ties between the two countries should be used to benefit the countries of the Western Pacific and strengthen peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Our relationship

should develop for the common good of all the peoples of the region.

It is with a sense of very great satisfaction, Mr. Prime Minister, that I am signing this Treaty on behalf of the Australian Government and the Australian people.

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