



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

22 JUNE 1977

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr President, it is a great pleasure to be in Washington again, and I thank you for your warm welcome. You have recognised and stated clearly the need for the democracies to consult more closely and work in cooperation with one another, to show unity and purpose.

I think we all have to realise the need for increased communication, and cooperation between the democracies. Confidence in ourselves, in the values we share in the capacity and strength of free people, is essential if progress is to be made in resolving the problems faced by mankind.

These problems are of urgent and fundamental importance to all of us. We are faced by the inability of many countries to escape from poverty, growing world concern over the availability of energy resources, the denial of fundamental freedoms to many people, the continued potential for conflict, the possibility of nuclear proliferation, and arms races.

These problems demand greater attention. For too long, words have been a substitute for effective action

We have to act now with a sense of urgency and determination. Millions of people throughout the world want progress in the resolution of these problems. This was reflected clearly in the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference I have just attended in London.

Mr President, as a near neighbour to many developing countries, as a significant source of many important commodities, as a country with an unswerving faith in democracy, Australia is determined to play her part in making progress towards these ends.

Mr President, you have shown that you are determined to use the strength and influence of the United States to bring about a more secure and equitable world, a world in which poorer nations' economic development is accelerated, in which deprivation is confronted and the pernicious doctrine of one race's superiority over another is banned for all time.

There are many obstacles in the way of achieving these objectives . It is always the case that the more important the goal, the greater the barrier to achieving it. But the barriers to achieving a better world might well be insuperable, if the greatest democratic power were not playing an active and enlightened international role.

Mr President, we believe therefore, that your Presidency has excited men's imagination because it has appealed to the idealism of free people, because it has focused concern on issues which had not previously attracted the urgent attention they require, and because it has stressed the need for consultation and cooperation among the democracies.

Free men can have renewed faith in realising the aspirations we share.

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