

PRIME MINISTER: RETURN DINNER FOR PRESIDENT MARCOS
MANILA

Prime Minister

Tonight is nearing the end of a very friendly and a very happy visit to Manila. I would like to thank you again, Mr. President, for the great warmth of hospitality that has been shown to me and my party, my colleague Mr. Garland, while we have been here over the last two or three days.

This has now developed into a very great city, one of the great cities of the world and it must surely have the greatest conference theatre anywhere in the world, I certainly haven't seen such a magnificent auditorium. All this indicates great foresight, great initiative of those who have been responsible for the development of this city. I am sure that if there were only time I would see the same marked development and improvement throughout the Philippines.

Mr. President, I know that the last few days have surely been very busy ones for you. When a Head of Government comes to Australia I worry about his programme and is he going to be happy, are the talks going to be constructive and is everything being done properly. But you haven't had just one Head of Government, you have two Prime Ministers in the city at this moment and you have one of the great United Nations Conferences throughout the whole month. I am well aware of the demands that must be placed on your time and on Madame Marcos' time, and all the more reason therefore for thanking you for the invitation to be here on a State Visit during this particular, very busy week.

Manila has certainly become the centre of much world attention over the last few days and throughout the UNCTAD Conference. We have spoken of the Common Fund and significant progress has been made in that. I have said in other forums that much of what has been achieved is because of the foresight that you have shown, Mr. President, in the origins of the scheme for the Common Fund.

Agreement on main principles and on many details has now been reached. As I indicated yesterday, it remains to work out the indicated programmes to make sure we don't sit still, that we are not complacent, we are not content with what has been achieved. We need that drive forward to achieve more, to advance, to build on what we have done and not regress and become content because there is so much yet that remains to be done.

Mr. President, in the bilateral discussions that we have had, I believe the more than two hours of talks yesterday morning were amongst the most constructive that I have ever been involved in. We covered a very wide range of topics and the communique which will be issued tomorrow will indicate some part of that. But the

communique can't indicate the frank, the plain way that we were able to converse and to exchange views on many matters of great importance to your country, Mr. President and to mine and indeed to ASEAN and the whole South East Asian region. I think the way we were able to talk on the wider international issues and at the same time on bilateral matters, was a mark of understanding between us - a mark of the respect certainly which I hold for you and for the Philippines and recognition also that all our fates in this part of the world are bound very closely together. What happens in the countries of ASEAN very greatly affects Australia and what we all want -- peace, security, time to build up the living standards of the peoples of the region, is something which is dear to the hearts of all of us and we all want to achieve.

The talks were a mark, I believe, of the kind of exchange that can only occur between friends and neighbours and I thank you, Mr. President, for the quality of those talks. I believe they do establish, have established, a basis for a new period in the development of relations between the Philippines and Australia. I think tomorrow the decisions we have made, that the announcement of one or two matters that have been set aside in the past years, but now we are going to consummate. In a small ceremony tomorrow, we will seal the basis of that and enable us to build on the relationship between your country, Mr. President, and mine.