



# PRIME MINISTER

## TEXT OF SPEECHES DELIVERED BY THE PRIME MINISTER

### ON HIS OVERSEAS VISIT

2 JUNE TO 21 JUNE 1983

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SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA,  
THE HON R.J. HAWKE, A.C., M.P.  
AT THE STATE DINNER GIVEN BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
MICHAEL T. SOMARE, CH, MP, PRIME MINISTER OF  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
2 June 1983

I THINK IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT THE DECISION TO MAKE PAPUA NEW GUINEA THE FIRST PRIORITY IN ANY OVERSEAS VISIT I SHOULD UNDERTAKE AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA WAS THE FIRST DECISION OF ANY INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE WE MADE AS A GOVERNMENT.

IN FACT, IT WAS A DECISION TAKEN IN PRINCIPLE EVEN BEFORE WE FORMED A GOVERNMENT.

ON THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTION NIGHT OF THE FIFTH OF MARCH, PRIME MINISTER SOMARE WAS THE FIRST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT AND CONGRATULATE THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY ON OUR VICTORY.

IN A NIGHT CROWDED WITH RICH MEMORIES, THERE IS NOTHING I VALUE MORE HIGHLY.

WE BOTH AGREED THEN TO EXCHANGE VISITS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. ACCORDINGLY THIS IS MY FIRST PORT-OF-CALL, ON MY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT OVERSEAS AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA.

BUT THIS VISIT HAS A PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND MEANING FOR ME - AND ALSO FOR MY WIFE - WHICH GOES BEYOND <sup>ITS</sup> FORMAL AND OFFICIAL ASPECTS, FUNDAMENTALLY IMPORTANT TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AS THEY ARE.

WE BOTH VALUE MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY THE CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS AND FRIENDSHIPS WE HAVE DEVELOPED OVER MANY YEARS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA - NOT THE LEAST OF COURSE, WITH PRIME MINISTER SOMARE HIMSELF.

IT IS AN ASSOCIATION WHICH GOES BACK NEARLY SEVENTEEN YEARS AND ONE WHICH, IN EVERY SENSE, HAS CONTINUED TO RIPEN AND DEEPEN YEAR BY YEAR.

REFERENCES ARE FREQUENTLY MADE TO THE HISTORIC PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION CASE OF 1966-67.

AND IT IS TRUE THAT THE LOCAL OFFICERS CASE WAS OF SEMINAL IMPORTANCE - THAT SEEDS WERE SOWN WHICH ULTIMATELY FLOWERED IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT I WAS PRIVILEGED TO BE INVOLVED AS AN ADVOCATE IN THAT CASE, THE LEARNING PROCESS - THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE - WAS VERY MUCH A TWO-WAY AFFAIR.

I THINK EVERYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CASE SHARED IN A HEIGHTENING OF CONSCIOUSNESS - AND, FOR SOME AUSTRALIANS AT LEAST, AN AWAKENING OF CONSCIENCE ABOUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AS IT THEN EXISTED, AND THE GREAT HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THAT RELATIONSHIP.

SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I LEARNT MUCH MORE FROM THAT EXPERIENCE THAN I WAS EVER ABLE TO IMPART TO OTHERS. I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL TO THOSE MEN AND WOMEN IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AT THAT TIME WHO TAUGHT ME SO MUCH.

WE MAY ACKNOWLEDGE, IN RETROSPECT, THAT THE LOCAL OFFICERS CASE WAS TECHNICALLY A FAILURE: AND WITH THE WISDOM OF HINDSIGHT- BY WHICH EVERYONE CAN BE COUNTED WISE - THE SETBACK WAS FOR THE BEST, IN TERMS OF THE STABILITY AND VIABILITY OF AN INDEPENDENT PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

BUT FAILURE OR NOT, ITS CONSEQUENCES WERE TO BE OF TREMENDOUS SIGNIFICANCE.

IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT SO MANY OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CASE - ON BOTH SIDES- HAVE BECOME THE LEADERS OF AN INDEPENDENT PAPUA NEW GUINEA. THE LIST OF WITNESSES IS A VERITABLE WHO'S WHO OF PNG INDEPENDENCE.

NOR WAS IT A COINCIDENCE THAT PANGU WAS FORMED SOON AFTER - A POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS A PARALLEL IN THE FORMATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY AS A DIRECT RESULT OF ANOTHER INDUSTRIAL FAILURE - THE FAILURE OF THE GREAT STRIKES OF 1890.

BUT PERHAPS ITS MOST IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCE WAS THE REAPPRAISAL IT FORCED AUSTRALIANS - SOME AUSTRALIANS AT LEAST - TO MAKE ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND OUR ROLE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

FOR SOME, IT WAS AN AGONISING REAPPRAISAL.

BUT FROM 1967 ON, WE SAW, IN AUSTRALIA, AND IN THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT, THE FIRST CRACKS APPEARING IN THE WALL OF WHAT WAS CALLED BI-PARTISANSHIP WITH REGARD TO AUSTRALIA'S ROLE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA - AN ESSENTIALLY SPURIOUS BI-PARTISANSHIP, A BI-PARTISANSHIP OF SILENCE, A BI-PARTISANSHIP OF INDIFFERENCE.

THIS PHONEY BI-PARTISANSHIP SERVED MAINLY TO ENTRENCH EXISTING ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER 1967, AUSTRALIANS BEGAN TO QUESTION WHAT THE POLITICIANS AND <sup>THE</sup> ADMINISTRATORS WERE DOING IN THEIR NAME IN THIS COUNTRY.

AND ONCE THAT QUESTIONING BEGAN - BOTH HERE AND IN AUSTRALIA - THE MOVE TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE TOOK ON AN IRRESISTIBLE MOMENTUM - A MOMENTUM WHICH WAS GIVEN SHAPE, SUBSTANCE AND DIRECTION BY LEADERS LIKE MICHAEL SOMARE HERE, AND, IN AUSTRALIA, LIKE GOUGH WHITLAM.

I SAID JUST NOW THAT THE BIPARTISANSHIP WHICH EXISTED IN AUSTRALIA PRIOR TO 1967 WAS ESSENTIALLY PHONEY AND SPURIOUS. IT WAS CERTAINLY A NEGATIVE SORT OF BIPARTISANSHIP - THE BIPARTISANSHIP OF APATHY, INDIFFERENCE AND TO A LARGE EXTENT, IGNORANCE.

BUT THERE IS NOW A NEW AND POSITIVE BIPARTISANSHIP IN AUSTRALIA - A BIPARTISANSHIP FIRMLY BASED ON A COMMON RECOGNITION OF THE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF THE CLOSE AND ENDURING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO INDEPENDENT NATIONS, AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN OUR REGION.

THE PRESENT LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN AUSTRALIA, ANDREW PEACOCK, HIMSELF PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE PROCESS WHICH LED TO INDEPENDENCE; AND FOR THE MOST OF THE LIFE OF THE PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, THE PIVOTAL ROLE IN ESTABLISHING AND CEMENTING THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH NOW EXISTS BETWEEN US AS TWO INDEPENDENT NATIONS, PARTNERS AND NEIGHBOURS.

SO AT THE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL LEVEL, THERE IS NOTHING AT ALL SPURIOUS ABOUT THE NEW BIPARTISAN RELATIONSHIP TOWARDS PAPUA NEW GUINEA. IT IS DEEP. IT IS GENUINE. IT WILL ENDURE.

SO IN A VERY REAL SENSE, I CAN SPEAK IN PORT MORESBY NOT ONLY ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA BUT ON BEHALF OF THE PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.

BUT SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY FOR THE GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED A PATTERN OF CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION AND PERSONAL CONTACT WHICH I AM CONFIDENT WILL CONTINUE TO CHARACTERISE OUR RELATIONSHIP FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

MY FOREIGN MINISTER, MR HAYDEN, HAS ALREADY VISITED PAPUA NEW GUINEA. HIS VISIT ALSO WAS MADE THE MORE FRUITFUL THROUGH HIS LONG AND CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

A VISIT BY THE DEFENCE MINISTER, MR SCHOLLES IS PLANNED FOR LATER THIS MONTH.

I LOOK FORWARD IN PARTICULAR TO WELCOMING MR SOMARE TO CANBERRA FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN AUGUST.

I WOULD BE UNWILLING TO CHARACTERISE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA AS A "SPECIAL" RELATIONSHIP. SUCH DESCRIPTIONS TEND TOO OFTEN TO CONVEY OVERTONES OF PATRONAGE OR CONDESCENSION, AND THE EXPERIENCE OF "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS" AROUND THE WORLD HAS NOT BEEN ALTOGETHER HAPPY.

RATHER, I WOULD SAY THAT THE RANGE OF OUR COMMON INTERESTS - ECONOMIC, STRATEGIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND REGIONAL, AS WELL AS THE ASSOCIATIONS OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY - DO MAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP EXCEPTIONAL, AND EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT, OR BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

A PRINCIPAL FEATURE OF THIS EXCEPTIONAL RELATIONSHIP IS THE PLACE WE SHARE IN TWO OF THE WORLD'S REGIONS OF TREMENDOUS EMERGING SIGNIFICANCE.

WE BOTH BELONG TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION. WE BOTH BELONG TO THE WEST PACIFIC REGION - THE FASTEST GROWING ECONOMIC REGION IN THE WORLD TODAY.

IN THIS CONTEXT, I WANT TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE MY NEW GOVERNMENT PLACES ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM - NOT ONLY THE FORUM WHICH IS TO HAVE ITS FOURTEENTH MEETING IN CANBERRA IN AUGUST, BUT WHAT THE FORUM REPRESENTS.

IT REPRESENTS OUR RIGHT - THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC - TO HAVE OUR VOICE HEARD IN MATTERS VITALLY AFFECTING OUR FATE AND FUTURE, AND THE FUTURE, THE VERY LIVES, OF OUR CHILDREN.

OUR VOICE - THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC - DEMANDS TO BE HEARD ON PRESSING POLITICAL ISSUES LIKE THE FUTURE OF NEW CALEDONIA.

WE DEMAND TO BE HEARD ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING NUCLEAR TESTING AND THE DUMPING OF NUCLEAR WASTE - QUESTIONS THAT ARE LITERALLY A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR THIS GENERATION AND FOR GENERATIONS YET UNBORN.

OF COURSE, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FORUM GOES FURTHER, TO A WIDE RANGE OF PRACTICAL MATTERS. IT HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN AREAS OF IMPORTANCE TO

THE REGION'S DEVELOPMENT - FISHERIES, TRADE, SHIPPING AND AVIATION.

AUSTRALIA IS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN CO-OPERATION IN THE REGION IN THE MATTERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE PROMOTION, AND DEFENCE.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS REAFFIRMED THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO INTRODUCE A NEW FIVE-YEAR \$300 MILLION AID PROGRAM FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION.

THE IMPORTANCE AUSTRALIA ATTACHES TO THE ROLE THAT IT CAN PLAY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC SHOULD IN NO WAY BE THOUGHT TO REPRESENT ANY IDEA OF OUR SELF-IMPORTANCE. WE OPPOSE THE IDEA OF HEGEMONY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD: AND WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF SEEKING IT FOR OURSELVES IN OUR OWN REGION.

WE SEEK A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON MUTUAL CONFIDENCE, CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION AS BETWEEN EQUAL PARTNERS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

AND OUR APPROACH TO OUR WIDER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC CERTAINLY APPLIES TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

I SHOULD BRIEFLY MENTION TWO IMPORTANT BILATERAL MATTERS - TORRES STRAIT AND AID.

THE TREATY RELATING TO THE TORRES STRAIT, WHICH WAS SIGNED IN DECEMBER 1978, WAS THE OUTCOME OF DETAILED AND COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS, AND IN ITSELF REFLECTS THE CLOSE CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

I AM HOWEVER, CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT THE TREATY HAS YET TO BE RATIFIED. I WISH TONIGHT TO AFFIRM MY GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO RATIFY THE TREATY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SECOND, I THINK IT CAN BE FAIRLY SAID THAT THE NATURE OF AUSTRALIA'S AID TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA - BETTER THAN ANY OTHER ASPECT OF OUR MANY-SIDED RELATIONSHIP - SYMBOLISES THE MUTUAL TRUST, CONFIDENCE AND SENSE OF MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH HAVE CHARACTERISED OUR RELATIONSHIP SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

WE APPRECIATE THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE LED PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO REQUEST A VARIATION IN THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS. A DECISION, ANNOUNCED BY BILL HAYDEN DURING HIS VISIT, TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION AVAILABLE AS AN UNTIED CASH GRANT FOR 1982-83 REFLECTS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA SUSTAIN A SOUND PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AND STABILITY, UNTIL THE TERMS OF AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO PAPUA NEW

GUINEA'S REQUEST COULD BE FULLY CONSIDERED.

MR SOMARE AND I DISCUSSED THE AID ARRANGEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON. WE AGREED ON IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR THE REMAINING THREE YEARS OF THE FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT. THE ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE FRASER AND CHAN GOVERNMENTS IN 1980 WERE SOUND IN PRINCIPLE, AND SATISFACTORY FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES AS THEY THEN APPEARED. THEY PROVIDED FOR UNTIED CASH GRANTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE UNDER A FORMULA THAT REDUCED THE TOTAL AMOUNT BY FIVE PER CENT PER ANNUM IN REAL TERMS OVER FIVE YEARS. IN RECOGNITION OF THE HUGE CHANGE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S CIRCUMSTANCES, AND OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S OWN EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL RECESSION WITH DOMESTIC RESTRAINT, THE RATE OF REDUCTION OF AID OVER THE REMAINING THREE YEARS WILL BE 1 PER CENT, 2 PER CENT, AND 3 PER CENT.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIA'S OWN BUDGETARY PROBLEMS, WE HAVE AGREED THAT THE REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF AID SHOULD BE INCREASED AGAIN SHOULD IMPROVEMENTS IN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA MAKE THIS POSSIBLE WITHOUT THREATENING THE RESTORATION OF ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH. THESE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE NEWLY AGREED RATES OF DECLINE IN AID WILL BE MADE AUTOMATICALLY IF PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S MINERAL REVENUES EXCEED SPECIFIED LEVELS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

MR PRIME MINISTER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FRIENDS ALL, I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR WELCOME TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND THE WARMTH OF THE FRIENDSHIP AND HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO ME, MY WIFE AND MY PARTY.

BECAUSE OF THE LONG ASSOCIATIONS I MENTIONED EARLIER, AND THE MANY CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS WE HAVE FORMED OVER THE YEARS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE THAT I SHOULD MAKE ANY VISIT TO PORT MORESBY AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA WITHOUT SOME GLOW OF NOSTALGIA. AND REMEMBRANCES OF THINGS PAST, ON OCCASIONS LIKE THIS, ARE OF COURSE MADE RATHER THE WARMER WHEN WE REFLECT ON THE CHANGE IN POLITICAL AND PERSONAL FORTUNES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT MICHAEL AND MYSELF TOGETHER IN THIS PLACE IN OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. FOR BOTH OF US, AT THE VERY LEAST, IT HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING TWELVE MONTHS.

BUT IT IS NOT REALLY TO THE PAST THAT EITHER OF US LOOK - IN PERSONAL TERMS OR POLITICAL TERMS, OR IN TERMS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE. AND DESPITE THE MANY DIFFICULTIES WHICH BOTH OUR COUNTRIES ARE NOW EXPERIENCING, WHICH BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS ARE TACKLING IN A BOLD AND POSITIVE WAY, WE CAN HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE - I CERTAINLY HAVE - THAT THE FUTURE HOLDS TREMENDOUS PROMISE FOR THE WELLBEING, PROGRESS AND STABILITY OF THESE TWO GREAT COUNTRIES - PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA, SO DIFFERENT IN SO MANY WAYS, BUT SHARING IN SO MANY IMPORTANT ASSOCIATIONS, HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, REGIONAL, INSTITUTIONAL - SO MUCH IN COMMON.