

SPEECH BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, HON R.J. HAWKE AC, MP  
AT THE AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE CENTRE  
JAKARTA  
4 JUNE 1983

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YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY.

THIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDONESIA, ON THE FIRST LEG OF MY OVERSEAS MISSION AS AUSTRALIA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, IS INTENDED, OF ITSELF, TO DEMONSTRATE THE HIGH PRIORITY THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO RELATIONS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA.

BUT THIS OCCASION AT THE AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE CENTRE RECOGNISES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THAT MANY-SIDED RELATIONSHIP - THE HUMAN SIDE.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS, TRADE, AID, INVESTMENT - ALL THESE ARE IMPORTANT. BUT NONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE - AND THE KEY TO COMMUNICATION REMAINS LANGUAGE.

SO I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT I HAVE THIS EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA AT THE AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE CENTRE.

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FIRST, LET ME REAFFIRM THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE MAINTENANCE AND GROWTH OF SOUND AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA.

IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT IT WAS AN AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT THAT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE. THIS IS AN ASSOCIATION THAT THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT RECALLS WITH PRIDE.

OUR AIM IS TO ENHANCE THE GENERALLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS BEEN BUILT UP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES OVER SEVERAL DECADES. WE WANT A PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND ON A RECOGNITION OF THE MAJOR COMMUNITY OF INTEREST WHICH WE SHARE AS CLOSE NEIGHBOURS

MY DISCUSSIONS THIS MORNING WITH THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE HELPED TO RE-EMPHASISE THIS COMMON INTEREST, AND BROAD AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE COURSE WE SHOULD TAKE IN PURSUIT OF THE COMMON INTEREST.

IN RECENT YEARS THE RELATIONSHIP HAS ALSO DEVELOPED SUBSTANTIALLY THROUGH FREQUENT EXCHANGES OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS, THE GROWTH OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL CONTACT - THE TEACHING OF INDONESIAN IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS - THE EXPANSION OF CIVIL AVIATION LINKS AND OF COURSE TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

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IN FACT, TRADE AND INVESTMENT HAVE BEEN NOTABLE SUCCESSES. IN THE LAST TEN YEARS TWO-WAY TRADE HAS INCREASED OVER TEN TIMES TO \$932 MILLION IN 1981/82, WITH A SURPLUS IN INDONESIA'S FAVOUR IN THAT YEAR OF ALMOST \$100 MILLION.

AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT IN INDONESIA HAS ALSO RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE LAST DECADE. IT NOW STANDS AROUND \$200 MILLION, AND MORE THAN FIFTY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES HAVE ESTABLISHED SUCCESSFUL JOINT VENTURES IN INDONESIA.

BOTH INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA ARE SIGNIFICANT NATIONS IN THIS GREAT SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION - NOW THE MOST RAPIDLY GROWING ECONOMIC REGION IN THE WORLD. INDONESIA WITH A HUGE POTENTIAL MARKET, ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES AND A RECENT HISTORY OF SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH IS ONE OF THE KEY ECONOMIES IN THE REGION. THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CO-OPERATION ARE CLEARLY CONSIDERABLE. WE SHOULD DEVELOP THEM FURTHER.

BUT WITH THE BEST WILL IN THE WORLD, GOVERNMENTS CAN ONLY ACHIEVE SO MUCH IN STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION MUST COME FROM THE PEOPLE.

A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CLOSER BILATERAL RELATIONS IS BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S CULTURAL VALUES AND TRADITIONS.

AND AS I SAID EARLIER, LANGUAGE LIES AT THE VERY HEART OF THAT BETTER UNDERSTANDING.

SO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THIS AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE CENTRE REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS THE GOAL OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

I TRUST, OF COURSE, THAT THE DESIGNATION OF THIS CENTRE AS THE "AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE CENTRE", WILL NOT BE A SOURCE OF CONFUSION.

THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE AS SUCH.

WE SPEAK ENGLISH - THOUGH I SUPPOSE THERE MAY BE SOME SUPERIOR PERSONS DISPOSED TO DISPUTE THE CLAIM.

IN FACT, AS BEFITS THE LANGUAGE OF SHAKESPEARE - A LIVING, CHANGING LANGUAGE - WE CAN CLAIM TO HAVE ENRICHED AND INVIGORATED IT.

IN ANY CASE, AS THE MAJOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY IN THIS REGION, IT IS PROPER THAT AUSTRALIA SHOULD ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA; AND ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE THAT THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE ESTABLISHED BY AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE HERE IN OUR CLOSEST AND MOST POPULOUS NEIGHBOUR, INDONESIA.

YOU WILL KNOW THAT IN THE POST-WAR YEARS, AUSTRALIA HAS ABSORBED LARGE NUMBERS OF NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS FROM COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD - AND IN MORE RECENT YEARS, INCREASING NUMBERS OF NON-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE SPEAKERS FROM ASIA.

THUS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

IN AUSTRALIA, THE INDONESIAN LANGUAGE HAS BEEN TAUGHT FOR MANY YEARS IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND IN MANY SECONDARY SCHOOLS. THIS HAS HELPED PRODUCE A SOLID BASIS IN AUSTRALIA FOR INDONESIAN STUDIES.

THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INDONESIAN AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA IS AN OBJECTIVE THAT MY GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ENCOURAGE.

IT IS OUR INTENTION THAT THIS LANGUAGE CENTRE WILL ENCOURAGE INDONESIAN INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA. FOR THOSE WHO ARE GOING ON TO STUDY THERE IN VARIOUS FIELDS, IT WILL BE THEIR INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIA AND ITS PEOPLE, AS WELL AS ITS LANGUAGE.

WE HOPE THAT OVER TIME IT WILL ALSO INCREASINGLY OFFER LANGUAGE TRAINING AND RELATED FACILITIES TO A WIDER CIRCLE OF INDONESIANS WHO WILL THEN GAIN SOME ACQUAINTANCE WITH AUSTRALIA.

I HOPE TO SEE IT LINK IN WITH OTHER CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES HERE. FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE HEARD WITH GREAT INTEREST OF THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ESTABLISH AND DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF AUSTRALIAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA. THAT SEEMS TO ME PRECISELY THE SORT OF ENTERPRISE WHICH WE NEED IF WE ARE TO GET THE INCREASED MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH MY GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY DOES WANT TO SEE DEVELOP BETWEEN INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA. I HOPE WE CAN FIND WAYS TO BUILD UP THAT PROGRAM AND HELP IT DEVELOP INTO A SOUNDLY-BASED ACADEMIC CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES HERE IN INDONESIA.

AS THIS LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTRE MEETS AN  
INDONESIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING REQUIREMENT,  
I AM DELIGHTED, ON MY FIRST VISIT TO INDONESIA AS  
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, TO BE ABLE TO DEDICATE  
A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED BECAUSE IT IS  
A PROJECT WHICH WILL NOT ONLY GIVE INCREASING NUMBERS  
OF INDONESIAN GRADUATES ACCESS TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE,  
BUT WILL INTRODUCE MANY OF THEM TO AUSTRALIA.

I BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL  
OF US THAT WE DO MORE TO ENHANCE OUR MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE  
AND UNDERSTANDING. MY GOVERNMENT WILL DO ALL IT CAN  
TO SEE THAT THIS IS ACHIEVED.

IT FALLS TO ME TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF DEDICATING  
THIS CENTRE TODAY AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA.  
BUT, OF COURSE, THIS TASK I PERFORM TODAY ONLY COMPLETES  
AN INITIATIVE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OF  
AUSTRALIA. THIS FACT IS A REMINDER OF THE BASIC CONTINUITY  
OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES, AND THE CONTINUING  
WISH OF ALL AUSTRALIANS FOR FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE OF INDONESIA AND  
AUSTRALIA.

IN UNVEILING THIS PLAQUE, I DEDICATE THIS  
LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTRE TO INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION  
AND UNDERSTANDING AND PARTICULARLY TO THE  
ENHANCEMENT OF MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA.

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