

SPEECH BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, HON R.J. HAWKE AC, MP,  
AT THE  
PRESIDENT'S DINNER, JAKARTA  
4 JUNE 1983

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YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT SOEHARTO, MADAME SOEHARTO,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN,

I THANK YOU INDEED, MR PRESIDENT, FOR YOUR  
WARM WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS ME PERSONALLY AND  
MORE IMPORTANTLY, TOWARDS MY COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE  
OF AUSTRALIA.

AS THE NEWEST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS  
REGION I APPRECIATE YOUR WORDS ALL THE MORE,  
MR PRESIDENT, COMING AS THEY DO FROM ONE OF THE  
LONGEST-SERVING, MOST EXPERIENCED AND MOST RESPECTED  
HEADS OF STATE, NOT ONLY IN THIS REGION, BUT IN THE  
WORLD.

YOU HAVE GUIDED INDONESIA'S PROGRESS FOR  
SIXTEEN YEARS AND YOU HAVE JUST EMBARKED ON ANOTHER  
FIVE-YEAR TERM.

YOU WERE CALLED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS NATION AT A TIME WHEN INDONESIA WAS IN THE DEEPEST OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND WEAKENED BY SEVERE INTERNAL DISCORD AND EXTERNAL DISSENSION WITH MUCH OF HER NEIGHBOURHOOD.

UNDER YOUR PRESIDENCY, INDONESIA'S ECONOMY HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED. BOTH IN THE REGION AND AROUND THE WORLD, YOUR NATION HAS ESTABLISHED A SOLID REPUTATION AS A RELIABLE PARTNER AND A GOOD NEIGHBOUR.

YOURS HAS BEEN AN IMMENSE ACHIEVEMENT IN BOTH THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS VAST AND DIVERSE NATION.

IF I MAY USE A PHRASE WHICH HAS RECENTLY BECOME FAMILIAR TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA, YOU, SIR, SET YOUR HAND TO THE TREMENDOUS TASK OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, NATIONAL RECOVERY AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION - AND BY CARRYING OUT THAT TASK WITH SUCH FIDELITY AND SUCCESS, YOU HAVE WON AN IMPERISHABLE PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF YOUR COUNTRY AND THE HEARTS OF YOUR COUNTRY-MEN AND -WOMEN.

MY OWN VISIT - AS PART OF MY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT OVERSEAS AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, UNDERLINES THE PRIMACY THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA PLACE UPON OUR RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA.

AS YOU WILL RECALL, MR PRESIDENT, WITHIN A MONTH OF OUR ASSUMING OFFICE AS THE NEW AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT, THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, MR HAYDEN, CAME TO JAKARTA. INDEED, INDONESIA WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY HE VISITED.

I KNOW YOU SHARE MY VIEW MR PRESIDENT, THAT THAT INITIAL CONTACT WAS MOST FRUITFUL AND VALUABLE, ESPECIALLY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT MADE CLEAR THAT THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS. I WAS THEREFORE MOST ANXIOUS TO TAKE THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO ACCEPT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S INVITATION TO COME TO INDONESIA.

THE WARMTH OF YOUR WELCOME, SIR, AND THE THOUGHTFUL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE FOR ME, MY WIFE AND THE PARTY TRAVELLING WITH ME, REFLECT NOT ONLY THE HOSPITALITY FOR WHICH INDONESIA AND HER PEOPLE ARE WELL KNOWN, BUT ALSO - I AM SURE I CAN SAY - THE RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE AND TIMELINESS OF THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH FORM THE CORE OF OUR PROGRAM HERE.

THOSE CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED FREELY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE PURPOSE I KNOW WE BOTH DEEPLY SHARE - THE DESIRE FOR AN EFFECTIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE AND ENDURING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA - THESE TWO CLOSE NEIGHBOURS, SO DIFFERENT IN SO MANY WAYS, BUT WHICH SHARE SO MANY COMMON INTERESTS OF THE HIGHEST AND MOST ENDURING IMPORTANCE.

AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT FOR US, AS OUR NATION'S LEADERS, TO NEGLECT ANY OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND TO STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATIONS OF AGREEMENT WOULD BE A DERELICTION OF OUR DUTY TO BOTH OUR PEOPLES AND A DENIAL OF THEIR COMMON DESTINY IN THE REGION WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER INDISSOLUBLY AS NEIGHBOURS FOREVER.

ACCORDINGLY I HAVE HAD SEVERAL OBJECTIVES IN MY TALKS HERE.

FIRST, WAS MY KEEN DESIRE TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN MY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH YOU, MR PRESIDENT. I HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH YOU ON THE KEY ISSUES OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL IMPORTANCE.

SECONDLY, I HAVE TAKEN THIS VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MANY OF YOUR COLLEAGUES AND RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS.

THIRDLY, I HAVE SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN AUSTRALIA'S ATTITUDE ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN US.

FOURTH, I HAVE TRIED TO USE THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE WITH YOU WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY BE ABLE TO BUILD ON THE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE TOWARDS OVERCOMING CERTAIN PROBLEMS.

FINALLY, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONSULT WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY ON FURTHER MEASURES WE MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE TOGETHER TO ADD SUBSTANCE TO OUR MUTUAL PROFESSIONS OF A DETERMINATION TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES AND IMPROVE CO-OPERATION.

IT IS OF COURSE NOT APPROPRIATE ON THIS OCCASION TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS TO DATE. SUFFICIENT TO SAY THAT I WAS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TODAY FOR THE OPENNESS WITH WHICH YOUR EXCELLENCY TOOK ME INTO YOUR CONFIDENCE ON INDONESIAN THINKING ON A RANGE OF MATTERS. I APPRECIATED, TOO, THE CARE WITH WHICH YOU LISTENED TO ME AS I OUTLINED AUSTRALIA'S POINT OF VIEW.

I KNOW, MR PRESIDENT, THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT IT IN THE SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS, OPENNESS AND SINCERITY OF TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS IF I REFER, VERY BRIEFLY, TO EAST TIMOR.

WE NEED NOT HIDE WHAT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC AND HISTORICAL RECORD, THAT THE UNFOLDING OF EVENTS IN LATE 1975 AND 76, MARKED A SETBACK IN OUR RELATIONS.

I AM, HOWEVER, CONFIDENT IN OUR ABILITY TO RESOLVE THOSE DIFFERENCES AND PUT THEM BEHIND US, SO THAT THEY WILL PRESENT NO OBSTACLE IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP.

AUSTRALIA ACKNOWLEDGES AND WISHES TO ENCOURAGE THE MAJOR EFFORTS THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION; AND TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR AFTER CENTURIES OF COLONIAL MISRULE AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE COLONIAL REGIME. IN THIS CONTEXT WE SHALL BE MAKING NEW AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALLING \$1.5 MILLION TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROGRAM AND THE UNICEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN EAST TIMOR.

AND LET ME CONCLUDE REFERENCE TO THIS MATTER BY PLACING IT IN ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE - THE PERSPECTIVE OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY.

THE PARTY WHICH I HAVE THE HONOUR OF LEADING -  
THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY - HAS, IN ITS COUNCILS,  
EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THESE EVENTS.

BUT LET ME SAY EMPHATICALLY, THAT THAT EXPRESSED  
CONCERN IN NO WAY DIMINISHES THE ENDURING FEELINGS OF  
FRIENDSHIP WHICH THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS HELD  
TOWARDS INDONESIA, FROM THE DAYS WHEN AN EARLIER AUSTRALIAN  
LABOR GOVERNMENT AND THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT - THE  
TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WHICH I ALSO HAD THE HIGH HONOUR OF  
LEADING FOR A DECADE - GAVE ITS SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF  
INDONESIA, IN THEIR GLORIOUS STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE  
NEARLY FORTY YEARS AGO.

I BELIEVE IT IS VALUABLE TO RECALL THAT EPOCH,  
FOR, OF SUCH MATTERS, AND MEMORIES, ARE THE RELATIONS  
BETWEEN PEOPLES AND NATIONS MADE.

BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO REPEAT THAT, EVEN WHERE DIFFERENCES EXIST, THEY NEED FORM NO INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER IN THE WAY OF DEVELOPING AND DEEPENING THE BASIC FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS SURELY THE MARK OF THE MATURITY OF A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONS THAT HONEST DIFFERENCES CAN BE EXPRESSED FREELY AND CANDIDLY - WITHOUT IMPAIRING THE BASIC STRENGTH OF THAT RELATIONSHIP.

IT REMAINS TRUE THAT WE SHARE FUNDAMENTAL ASSUMPTIONS, WIDE AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND POINTS OF VIEW, ESPECIALLY ON THE WIDER QUESTIONS OF THE FUTURE OF OUR REGION - ITS PEACE, ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH, ITS STABILITY AND ITS SECURITY.

ABOVE ALL, WE EACH STAND UNSHAKEABLY ON THE COMMON GROUND THAT OUR REGION AS A WHOLE, AND EACH INDEPENDENT NATION COMPRISING THE REGION, MUST BE FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, INTERVENTION, AGGRESSION, OR ANY ATTEMPT AT ASSERTING DOMINATION OR HEGEMONY OF ANY KIND.



HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY - WE NEED NOT BE AFRAID TO CALL IT 'DESTINY' - HAVE BROUGHT OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER AND CONFRONTED US WITH COMMON PROBLEMS IN THE REGION IN WHICH WE BOTH LIVE. THIS HAS MEANT THAT WE EACH PURSUE BROADLY PARALLEL POLICIES IN OVERCOMING THESE PROBLEMS.

WE BELIEVE THAT INDONESIA'S INDEPENDENT AND ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY REFLECTS MANY OF THE SAME CONCERNS AS EXPRESSED IN OUR OWN FORWARD-LOOKING APPROACH.

WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SUBSTANTIAL AND POSITIVE ROLE INDONESIA IS PLAYING IN THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION. IN PARTICULAR INDONESIA IS MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPING THE STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY OF ASEAN, A COMMITMENT IN WHICH YOU, MR PRESIDENT, PERSONALLY PLAY SUCH A KEY ROLE.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDS ASEAN AS AMONG THE MOST NATURAL, VIABLE, VALUABLE AND SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL GROUPINGS IN THE WORLD.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, TOO, IS WORKING TO ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR SECURITY IN OUR REGION.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN THE FUTURE AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA WILL USE THESE AREAS OF SHARED PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPING COMMON EXPERIENCE TO THEIR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER BOTH AS GOVERNMENTS AND AS PEOPLES.

WE BOTH NEED TO MAKE A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND BETTER EACH OTHER'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND TO LEARN TO RESPECT THE DIFFERENT VALUES THEY REFLECT. ON THIS BASIS, EACH COUNTRY WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE, AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CO-OPERATION.

THE BASIC GOODWILL EXISTS ON BOTH SIDES, AND MUCH OF THE MACHINERY OF CO-OPERATION ALREADY EXISTS.

THE HABIT OF INDONESIAN/AUSTRALIAN CO-OPERATION AND CONSULTATION IS ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS, INVOLVING BOTH THE GOVERNMENTAL AND THE PRIVATE SECTORS. TWO-WAY TRADE HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT YEARS. THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT HERE. INDONESIA IS A MAJOR DESTINATION FOR AUSTRALIAN TOURISTS.

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OUR DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION PROGRAM WITH INDONESIA IS AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST WITH ANY SINGLE COUNTRY EXCEPT FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

TODAY I HAD THE PLEASURE OF OPENING THE NEW AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTRE IN JAKARTA.

OUR BILATERAL DEFENCE CO-OPERATION PROGRAM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND THE YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM, ARE FURTHER AREAS WHERE, AT THE INITIATIVE OF GOVERNMENT, A TWO-WAY FLOW HAS BEEN STIMULATED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. THERE IS A NEED FOR BOTH OUR COUNTRIES TO BE ACTIVE AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL IN PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF THE OTHER. MORE THAN EVER THERE IS A NEED FOR A FOCUSED AND DELIBERATE ATTEMPT FOR EACH COUNTRY TO EXPLAIN ITSELF TO THE MEDIA AND TO PUBLIC OPINION IN THE OTHER.

FEW SUCH CLOSE NEIGHBOURS IN THE WORLD ARE MORE DIFFERENT IN CULTURE AND BACKGROUND. THERE IS SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER AND, I BELIEVE, FROM EACH OTHER.

I REFERRED AT THE OUTSET TO MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISHING STRONG, CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL NEIGHBOUR. THIS IS NOT ONLY THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT, BEYOND DOUBT, THE WISH OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE. THE IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA TO AUSTRALIA IS SOMETHING ON WHICH, WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, THERE IS A HIGH DEGREE OF CONTINUITY, CONSISTENCY AND CONSENSUS.

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT IS DUTY BOUND TO GIVE EXPRESSION AND PRACTICAL EFFECT TO THIS CONSENSUS AMONG THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE THAT WE MUST WORK TOWARDS A SOUNDER AND BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA IN THE FUTURE.

THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO BUILD A NEW AND ENDURING INDONESIA/AUSTRALIA RELATIONSHIP IN THE FUTURE WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON HOW WE PROCEED NOW. WE CANNOT BUILD ON THE BASIS OF FALSE EXPECTATIONS OF EACH OTHER, NOR CAN WE EXPECT TO MOVE FORWARD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL SUSPICION, PREJUDICE, OR RECRIMINATION.

OUR AGREED PRIORITY MUST BE, THROUGH DIALOGUE, TO LAY EVEN FIRMER FOUNDATIONS FOR A RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS BOTH MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS AND MATURE.

MR PRESIDENT, AUSTRALIA IS PLEDGED TO THAT OBJECTIVE. AND I KNOW FROM OUR TALKS TODAY THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT ALSO SHARE THAT OBJECTIVE.

SO IN THAT SPIRIT OF COMMON COMMITMENT,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FELLOW GUESTS,  
I INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE HEALTH  
AND HAPPINESS OF PRESIDENT AND MADAME SOEHARTO,  
TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF INDONESIA AND TO  
THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO GREAT NATIONS.

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