

2a

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER,
MR. HAWKE, AND THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, MR. NAKASONE. 1/2/84

1. The relationship between Australia and Japan is of immense importance to both of us. The warmth of our relations reflects a common commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy, as well as the extensive co-operation which has been developed in many fields.

As we look towards the 21st century, it is clear that the Asia-Pacific region will continue to demonstrate the most rapid and dynamic economic development in the world. Our two countries are committed to further strengthening our co-operation with other countries in the region to ensure its peace, stability and prosperity. Australia and Japan together are able to make great contributions to the development of the region.

2. The most urgent tasks in today's international society are the establishment of stable East-West relations and the achievement of arms control and disarmament. For this purpose, we are determined to continue to cooperate closely both because of common regional interests and from the standpoint that we are members of the free and democratic community of nations.

Under the present difficult international environment, the promotion of disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, is strongly desired. In view of the important roles of the United Nations and the Committee on Disarmament in this field, we intend to increase co-operation and make positive endeavours for the promotion of disarmament in these fora. We will continue to work together to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to achieve a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

We express regret that the two most important nuclear disarmament negotiations, namely the INF negotiations and the START talks, have been in the one case unilaterally suspended by the Soviet Union and in the other adjourned at Soviet initiative without the setting of a resumption date. We urge an early resumption of and real progress in these negotiations.

We are particularly concerned that the INF negotiations should be conducted from a global perspective, taking into account the security of the Asia-Pacific region as well.

The Japanese side also reconfirms that Japan's basic stance on security is to achieve an effective defence capability limited to that necessary for self-defence, to maintain the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and to seek their smooth and effective operation, and that, maintaining a solely defensive posture under the Peace Constitution and its three non-nuclear principles, Japan will not become a military power nor pose any military threat to neighbouring countries.

For its part, Australia appreciates that Japan has a sovereign right to determine its own security and defence policies and understands Japan's stance.

3. The future outlook of the world economy is brighter today as the economies of the industrial nations are recovering. It is at this time that it is necessary for us to devote our utmost efforts to the further development of an open multilateral trading system. We jointly recognise that, from this viewpoint, it is important to promote the preparations for starting a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Global trade expansion is indispensable for maintaining prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The support of a wide range of countries, including developing countries, is important in the preparations for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. We declare that Japan and Australia will make cooperative efforts for the launching of the negotiations.

The cooperative efforts of Australia and Japan will be made in close consultation with their trading partners to ensure effective inputs from the Asia-Pacific region into the preparation for a new round. A new round of multilateral negotiations should deal effectively with the wide range of impediments to trade expansion and hence to world economic recovery.

We share the view that the expansion and development of economic and trade relations between Japan and Australia has made and will continue to make a significant contribution to the economic development of the two countries.

The Japanese side believes that the position of Australia as a supplier of primary products including minerals will not decline so long as these Australian products maintain their competitiveness and their stable supply is assured. The Japanese side confirms that it has no intention of dealing with the trade problems with third countries at the expense of Australia.

Australia intends making good use of new opportunities for exporting manufactured goods and services that are increasing in demand in Japan. Officials will discuss measures to promote trade revitalisation.

The Australian side outlined recent developments in industrial relations in Australia. The Japanese side welcomed the improvement in the industrial relations climate in Australia in recent months.