



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT - PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PREMIER ZHAO - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER MR HAYDEN WAS IN PEKING LAST AUGUST AUSTRALIA AND CHINA AGREED TO DISAGREE. SINCE THEN HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGED POSITION ON EITHER SIDE OR IS THERE STILL DISAGREEMENT ... ON THE INDO-CHINA QUESTION.

PREMIER: I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT THE POSITION TAKEN BY CHINA AND THE POSITION TAKEN BY AUSTRALIA ON THE QUESTION OF KAMPUCHEA BASICALLY ARE THE SAME. IN OTHER WORDS WE HAVE COMMON POINTS ON MAJOR ISSUES CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF KAMPUCHEA. OF COURSE WE ALSO HAVE DIFFERENCES ON SMALL ISSUES, CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF KAMPUCHEA. FOR INSTANCE BOTH SIDES CONDEMN VIETNAM FOR ITS INVASION OF KAMPUCHEA, BOTH SIDES STAND FOR VIETNAMESE WITHDRAWAL AND BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT KAMPUCHEA SHOULD BECOME A PEACEFUL, NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS. OF COURSE THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE TWO COUNTRIES ON SOME SPECIFIC ASPECTS. BUT I THINK THAT THROUGH CONTINUOUS CONTACT, I THINK IT WILL ENABLE THE TWO SIDES TO ENHANCE THEIR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. AND I THINK SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AS FAR AS KAMPUCHEA IS CONCERNED WILL NOT EFFECT OUR CO-OPERATION ON THE MAJOR ASPECTS CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF KAMPUCHEA. AND I WOULD LIKE TO ADD ONE POINT - THAT IS THAT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRIME MINISTER HAWKE ON THE QUESTION OF KAMPUCHEA. I THINK THIS MORNING WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT.

JOURNALIST: MR PREMIER LAST NIGHT IN YOUR SPEECH YOU REFERRED TO VIETNAM'S USE OF THE TERM DIALOGUE AND WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF IT. DOES THAT MEAN YOU BELIEVE DIALOGUE WITH VIETNAM AT THE MOMENT IS A WASTE OF TIME.

PREMIER: THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER MR TAK SPREAD SOME RUMOURS TO THE EFFECT THAT CHINA AND VIETNAM HAD STARTED A DIALOGUE THROUGH CERTAIN CHANNELS AND HE EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER (?) HAD A ... AT THE UNITED NATIONS. ALL THESE ARE SIMPLY MYTHS, FABRICATED STORIES.

JOURNALIST: DOES THAT MEAN THAT DIALOGUE BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND VIETNAM IS ALSO A WASTE OF TIME AT THE MOMENT?

PREMIER: OUR POSITION IS THAT WE ARE NOT FOR HAVING A DIALOGUE WITH VIETNAM. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO OTHERS HAVING A DIALGUE WITH VIETNAM. WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER HAYDEN WAS IN CHINA I SAID TO HIM I DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD. BUT IF HAS THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOD AND IF HE CAN SUCCEED IN PERSUADING VIETNAM TO GET OUT OF KAMPUCHEA THAT OF COURSE WOULD BE A VERY GOOD THING. HOWEVER OF COURSE I DO NOT BELIEVE IN THAT GOD.

JOURNALIST: MR PREMIER AUSTRALIA AND CHINA HAVE SEEMINGLY ENJOYED VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS FOR OVER 11 YEARS. I WONDER WHAT YOU PUT THAT DOWN TO. I WONDER HOW SEEMINGLY THAT HAS WORKED SO WELL.

PREMIER: SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND CHINA OUR RELATIONS HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN ALL FIELDS TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES. AND I THINK THERE IS STILL VERY BIG POTENTIAL FOR THE FURTHER EXTENSION OF OUR FRIENDLY CO-OPERATION. AND I THINK OUR CO-OPERATION WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP. AND I THINK THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS HAS GIVEN PROOF TO ONE POINT - THAT IS COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS CAN DEVELOP THEIR RELATIONS SO LONG AS THE TWO SIDES ADOPT A FAR-SIGHTED AND A WISE POLICY. THAT PROVES ONE THING, THAT IS COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS CAN VERY WELL ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION OF THE VERY FAR-SIGHTED POLICY PURSUED BY BOTH THE LABOR PARTY AND LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA IN DEVELOPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

JOURNALIST: ARE YOU AND MR HAWKE DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF KOREA. IS CHINA PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS ON RE-UNIFICATION.

PREMIER: THE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY DPRK IS A PROPOSAL FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE CHINA. I THINK THE DPRK HAS REASON TO MAKE THAT SUGGESTION, AND I THINK THEIR SUGGESTION IS REASONABLE. THAT IS BECAUSE THE DPRK IS A PARTY TO THE QUESTION AND SOUTH KOREA IS A PARTY TO THE QUESTION AND THE UNITED STATES HAS TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA, SO THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO A PARTY TO THAT QUESTION. I THINK THE QUESTION CANNOT BE RESOLVED WITHOUT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION. AND SO WE DO NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS AND THE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE DPRK DOES NOT INCLUDE CHINA.