



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT - PRESS CONFERENCE AT TRAVELODGE HOTEL, PORT MORESBY 7
AUGUST 1984, 7.30 P.M.

JOURNALIST: PRIME MINISTER WHAT DID EMERGE OUT OF YOUR TALKS WITH MR
LANGE TODAY.

P.M.: THAT HE'S GOT A BIGGER APPETITE THAN I HAVE. NO, WELL AS YOU
WILL APPRECIATE THEY WERE CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS AND I DON'T THINK
YOU'D REALLY EXPECT ME TO GO INTO THE DETAILS. BUT LET ME REALLY
GIVE YOU THE OUTLINE. THE FIRST THING TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT I WAS
PUTTING TO DAVID OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE AND BASIS OF THE
ANZUS ALLIANCE AS IT HAS DEVELOPED UNDER SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN
AUSTRALIA AND WHAT OUR POSITION WAS IN THE LIGHT OF HAVING ACHIEVED
FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW A TOTALLY SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP. HE PUT
TO ME THE POSITION AS HE SAW IT WITHIN NEW ZEALAND. AND I AS I'VE
MADE CLEAR, AND AS BILL HAYDEN HAS MADE CLEAR AS WELL, WE WERE NOT
ACTING AS EMISSARIES FOR THE UNITED STATES, THAT'S FOR THE UNITED
STATES TO PUT ITS POSITION TO THE NEW ZEALANDERS. THEY HAVE DONE
THAT. I WAS CONCERNED WITH PUTTING OUR POSITION AND HEARING MR
LANGE'S POSITION. NOW IT'S A MATTER FOR MR LANGE AND THE GOVERNMENT
TO DETERMINE WHERE THEY GO ON IT. I HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF
HIS THINKING AND OF THE SITUATION WITH WHICH HE'S CONFRONTED THERE.
IT'S A MATTER FOR MR LANGE IN HIS CAPACITY BOTH AS PRIME MINISTER
AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO WORK THIS THING THROUGH. AND THERE'S NO
ADVANTAGE OR VALUE FOR ANYONE, CERTAINLY FOR AUSTRALIA, IN
SPECULATING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS NOW. IT'S REALLY IN NEW ZEALAND'S
COURT. IT WOULD BE QUITE IMPROPER FOR US TO BE SEEKING TO IMPOSE
POSITIONS. WE WOULD NOT APPRECIATE IT IF THE ROLES WERE REVERSED, IF
THERE WAS SOME ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A VIEW UPON US.

JOURNALIST: MR LANGE'S TOLD THE NEW ZEALAND PRESS AFTER THE
BREAKFAST THIS MORNING THAT THE MAJOR EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY
INVOLVING AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND AMERICAN NAVAL VESSELS SEEMS
THREATENED. IF THAT EXERCISE DOESN'T GO AHEAD WOULD YOU ACCEPT THAT
ANZUS IS SHAKY.

P.M.: WELL I DON'T THINK IT'S USEFUL SPECULATING ABOUT THAT
HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION AND YOU KNOW THAT NORMALLY I DON'T LIKE
DEALING WITH HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS. BUT EVEN MORE SO IN THIS CASE

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BECAUSE YOU DO HAVE WHAT BY ANY CRITERIA YOU LIKE TO CHOOSE A DELICATE SITUATION IN WHICH A TREATY RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR THIRTY YEARS IS IN QUESTION TO SOME EXTENT - CERTAIN IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF IT ARE IN QUESTION WITHIN ONE COUNTRY, IN NEW ZEALAND. NOW IT'S OBVIOUSLY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF ALL OF US THAT NOTHING BE DONE NOW WHICH MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PROCESSES WITHIN NEW ZEALAND TO BE WORKED OUT WITHIN NEW ZEALAND. ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE PRESSURES FROM OUTSIDE I BELIEVE WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND SO FOR ME TO SAY WHAT WOULD BE THE SITUATION IF AS YOU COME UP TO FEBRUARY OF NEXT YEAR THERE WAS AN INCAPACITY TO HOLD THE EXERCISES AS PLANNED, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE HELPFUL. WE WILL, AS FAR AS AUSTRALIA IS CONCERNED, WE CAME TO GOVERNMENT AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WANTED TO LOOK AT ANZUS. THE AMERICANS WERE FULLY CO-OPERATIVE WITH US IN FACILITATING THAT REVIEW IN WHICH BOTH THE RELEVANT MINISTERS - SCHOLES AND HAYDEN - WERE INVOLVED AND OUR DEFENCE FORCE ELEMENTS WERE INVOLVED. NOW WE ARE SATISFIED COMPLETELY WITH THAT REVIEW AND OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE TREATY TO OUR FORE-SEEABLE REQUIREMENTS. NOW WE'VE DONE OUR JOB THEREFORE. NOW THERE'S A NEW GOVERNMENT IN NEW ZEALAND, THEY'VE GOT TO DO THEIR OWN EXERCISE. I CAN DO NO MORE RESPONSIBLY THAN PUT CLEARLY TO MR LANGE, AS I HAVE DONE, OUR VIEW OF THE SITUATION. WE'VE DONE THAT. NOW IT'S BACK IN THEIR COURT. AND TO SPECULATE, IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF AVOIDING YOUR QUESTION, BUT TO SPECULATE ON HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS WOULD NOT ONLY I BELIEVE BE UNHELPFUL TO MR LANGE IN HIS DELIBERATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE IN AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS OR IN THE UNITED STATES' INTERESTS.

JOURNALIST: WELL THE NEW ZEALANDERS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN A POSITION BEFORE THEY HAVE CONDUCTED A REVIEW.

P.M.: WELL THEY HAVE CERTAINLY PUT PUBLICLY A VIEW AS THEY SEE IT ABOUT CERTAIN ELEMENTS - THAT IS, OF THE NON-VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND PORTS OF NUCLEAR POWERED OR NUCLEAR ARMED VESSELS. NOW THEY'VE PUT THE VIEW PUBLICLY. NOW IT'S FOR THEM TO CONDUCT THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND I GUESS THEY'LL DO THAT. THEY HAVE TO THINK OF ALL THE ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER. IT'S FOR THEM.

JOURNALIST: PRIME MINISTER ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION TODAY DOES IT GIVE YOU ANY CONCERN AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF ANZUS OR OUR ROLE IN THAT ALLIANCE.

P.M.: WELL I BELIEVE, AND WE'VE MADE THIS CLEAR BEFORE, I BELIEVE THAT IF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT WERE NOT ABLE TO REACH A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ACCOMMODATION WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE ISSUES WHICH ARE IN QUESTION NOW - AT THE FOREFRONT - THEN IT REQUIRES REAPPRAISALS. BUT WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT IT'S NOT USEFUL TO US, TO NEW ZEALAND OR THE UNITED STATES TO SPECULATE ABOUT THOSE REAPPRAISALS NOW. CLEARLY A REAPPRAISAL WOULD BE INVOLVED.

JOURNALIST: MR HAWKE WOULD YOU PREFER TO RESHAPE ANZUS THAT WOULD PERHAPS BE LESS OF A COMMITMENT FOR THE PARTICIPANTS, OR WOULD YOU PREFER AN ANZUS AS IT EXISTS TODAY, BUT PERHAPS A PACT BETWEEN JUST AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

P.M.: NO. WE HAVE MADE THE JUDGEMENT ABOUT THE SORT OF ANZUS WHICH IS APPROPRIATE FOR AUSTRALIA. WE'VE MADE THAT JUDGEMENT AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED TO MAKE ME OR THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT THAT APPRAISAL THAT WE'VE MADE ABOUT WHAT'S IN AUSTRALIA'S BEST INTERESTS SHOULD BE CHANGED.

JOURNALIST: DOES REPPRAISAL MEAN THAT AUSTRALIA HAS EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT EXCLUDING NEW ZEALAND?

P.M.: NO. IT WOULD BE A TOTAL CONTRADICTION OF WHAT I'VE JUST SAID. WHY SHOULD WE BE GOING DOWN THAT PATH WHILE NEW ZEALAND ITSELF HAS GOT TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION. IT WILL BE HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THAT'S APPROPRIATE. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE'VE GONE THROUGH THAT AND WE'RE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT POSITION. NOW ANOTHER PARTY - NEW ZEALAND - HAS GOT TO CONDUCT ITS DISCUSSIONS AND IT WOULD BE QUITE FUTILE AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR ME ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO BE GOING DOWN SOME SPECULATIVE HYPOTHETICAL PATH WHICH IS NOT RELEVANT AT THE MOMENT.

JOURNALIST: IS THAT THE END OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MR LANGE ON THAT QUESTION OR DO YOU INTEND TO HAVE FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH HIM?

P.M.: WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN BEFORE WE LEAVE. I'M LEAVING ON THURSDAY MORNING. I THINK HE'S NOT LEAVING UNTIL FRIDAY. IT MAY BE THAT SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION WILL OCCUR BETWEEN US, BUT WE'VE GOT NO FORMAL MEETING SCHEDULED.

JOURNALIST: DID MR LANGE PERHAPS ASK YOU WHAT YOU WOULD DO IN HIS PLACE?

P.M.: WELL I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD START TO WHAT I THINK WILL BE A LONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO LABOR GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE TASMAN IF I WERE TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATIONS.

JOURNALIST: MR HAWKE DID MR LANGE SAY TO YOU THAT EVEN IF HE WANTED TO CHANGE THAT POLICY NOW HE WOULD HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY BECAUSE OF THE STRONG ANTI-NUCLEAR SENTIMENTS WITHIN HIS PARTY.

P.M.: I GIVE THE SAME ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION THAT I GAVE BEFORE. I'M NOT GOING INTO THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATION.

JOURNALIST: IT WOULD SEEM SENSIBLE MR HAWKE GIVEN THE PROBLEMS OF ANZUS AT THE MOMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, YOUR GOVERNMENT, EMBARKED UPON CONTINGENCY PLANS PRIOR TO ANY AGREEMENT ON EITHER ELEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NEW ZEALAND. IS THAT GOVERNMENT WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM?

P.M.: WE DON'T NEED TO GO INTO ANY CONTINGENCY PLANNING. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WORKED OUT. I WOULD CONCUR WITH THE OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING MR SCHULTZ, ABOUT THE HIGH STANDING AND QUALITY OF THAT RELATIONSHIP. IT IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE AND WE ARE NOT IN ANY NEED TO REVIEW IT.

JOURNALIST: COULD ANZUS WORK IF AUSTRALIA DENIED ACCESS TO ITS PORTS AND FACILITIES BY U.S. NUCLEAR ARMED OR POWERED WARSHIPS OR AIRCRAFT.

P.M.: WELL THAT'S A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION WHICH IS ABSURD BECAUSE WE'VE MADE OUR DECISION ABOUT THAT. IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. IT'S LIKE ASKING ME A QUESTION LIKE WOULD THE DEFENCE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES BE THE SAME IF IT WAS GOING TO ABANDON THE NUCLEAR DETERRENT.

JOURNALIST: PRIME MINISTER YOU SAID EARLIER THAT YOU NOW HAVE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF MR LANGE'S POSITION OF A SITUATION WITH WHICH HE WAS CONFRONTED. WHAT DO YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE.

P.M.: WELL HE'S GIVEN ME AN EXPOSITION OF THE RANGE OF CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARE INVOLVED. I HADN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF HAVING THAT EXPOSITION BEFORE.

JOURNALIST: PRIME MINISTER IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INDONESIANS OR MR SOMARE HAS THE REPATRIATION ISSUE ARISEN?

P.M.: YES I'VE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM BOTH AND I'M SATISFIED THAT AS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES INVOLVED - PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND INDONESIA - THAT THEY HAVE REACHED BASICALLY A SATISFACTORY FOUNDATION FOR RESOLVING THE MATTER OF THE BORDER CROSSERS. I'VE MADE THE POSITION QUITE CLEAR FROM AN EARLY POINT AS HAS BILL HAYDEN THAT THESE ARE TWO SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT NATIONS. AND WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF OUR ATTITUDE IN AUSTRALIA THAT IN SOME IMPLICIT SENSE, PEOPLE DON'T SAY IT EXPLICITLY, BUT THEY'RE STILL IMPLICIT IN OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS SOMETHING LESS THAN AN INDEPENDENT NATION BECAUSE OF OUR PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP. THAT'S IN THE PAST. PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS A SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT NATION, IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH HAS TO BE RESOLVED WITH ANOTHER SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT NATION. AND ON MY JUDGEMENT THOSE TWO SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT NATIONS ARE DOING A FIRST CLASS JOB AT RESOLVING THAT ISSUE IN AN AMICABLE CONSTRUCTIVE WAY.

JOURNALIST: THERE WAS NO SUGGESTION OF A FUTURE AUSTRALIAN ROLE?

P.M.: NO, WHY SHOULD THERE BE. JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE A GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY TO THEM THAT DOESN'T DIMINISH THEIR SOVEREIGNTY OR INCREASE OUR RIGHT TO INTRUDE IN MATTERS BETWEEN THEM. AND PEOPLE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT.

JOURNALIST: HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THE ABC ISSUE WITH MR SOMARE.

P.M.: WE HAD A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE ABC, YES. AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT BEFORE I LEAVE I MIGHT HAVE A BIT MORE DISCUSSION. BUT WE HAVEN'T GONE TO IT IN DEPTH. BUT THERE'S NO SUGGESTION THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE ASKED TO LEAVE BEFORE WE GO ON THURSDAY, BARRIE, AS FAR AS I KNOW ANYWAY.

JOURNALIST: DID YOUR TALKS WITH MR LANGE ON THE ANZUS ISSUE REVEAL TO YOU OR MAKE YOU AWARE OF ANYTHING YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND OR REALISE OR KNOW BEFORE.

P.M.: THERE WERE SOME NUANCES OF THE POSITION IN NEW ZEALAND.

JOURNALIST: WHAT WERE THEY?

P.M.: CAN I JUST KEEP GOING? I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE DETAILS OF OUR CONVERSATION.

JOURNALIST: DO YOU THINK THAT THE TRIAD EXERCISE SHOULD GO AHEAD MR HAWKE IN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES?

P.M.: WELL WE'VE GOT TO OPERATE FROM THE BASIS THAT WE ARE IN AN ANZUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND NEW ZEALAND AND THAT THE PLANNING THAT IS DONE UNDER THAT SHOULD PROCEED. NOW WE WILL OBVIOUSLY GO AHEAD AT THIS STAGE ON THAT BASIS. NOW IF AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES IT EMERGES THAT IT MAY HAVE TO BE REVIEWED, THEN AS I'VE SAID BEFORE THAT'S THE TIME TO ADDRESS YOURSELF TO THAT ISSUE.

JOURNALIST: IN YOUR TALKS WITH MR RUSTAN, WHO AS HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER PRESUMABLY IS IN CHARGE OF THE TRANSMIGRATION PROGRAM AND ALSO THE LOCAL OFFICIALS IN IRIAN JAYA, DID YOU DISCUSS WITH HIM THE

REPATRIATION OF THE REFUGEES AND THEIR STATUS WHEN THEY GO BACK AND THAT SORT OF THING?

P.M.: WELL I DID DISCUSS WITH HIM THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA. AND AS I SAID IN ANSWER TO AN EARLIER QUESTION THAT CONFIRMED THE IMPRESSION THAT I HAD FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THIS COUNTRY THAT A SATISFACTORY BASIS WAS EVOLVING FOR THE RETURN OF THE BORDER CROSSERS. AND I'M CONFIDENT THAT THAT MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY BETWEEN THEM.

JOURNALIST: WAS THERE A PARTICULAR REASON WHY THE INDONESIAN MINISTER ASKED TO SEE YOU.

P.M.: NO, I THINK THAT HE REGARDED IT AS A VERY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS. HE'D TALKED WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO BEFORE HE'D LEFT AND HE WANTED TO CONVEY TO ME THE GOOD WISHES OF THE PRESIDENT, WHICH HE DID, AND I RECIPROCATED. AND WE HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND AS I SAY OF THIS ISSUE BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

JOURNALIST: DID ANYTHING ELSE COME UP?

P.M.: NO, BASICALLY THE ISSUES THAT WERE COVERED WERE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. SECONDLY, THE QUESTION OF THE BORDER CROSSERS INTO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THIRDLY HE DID OUTLINE TO ME IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL THEIR POLICY IN REGARD TO TRANSMIGRATION WITHIN HIS COUNTRY GENERALLY AND PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO IRIAN JAYA.

JOURNALIST: DID YOU DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH MR SOMARE AT ALL.

P.M.: NO.

JOURNALIST: IS THERE ANY PROBLEM IN AUSTRALIA OBTAINING INTELLIGENCE FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

P.M.: OUR RELATIONS IN THIS AND IN ALL OTHER FIELDS ARE EXCELLENT.