

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

12 AUGUST 1985

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER - PARLIAMENTARY LUNCHEON  
HIS EXCELLENCY RATU SIR PENAIA KANABUTU GANILAU  
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF FIJI - CANBERRA - 12 AUGUST 1985

Your Excellency, Adi Mai, Mr High  
Commissioner, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and  
Gentlemen.

Your State visit to Australia, following Sir Ninian  
Stephen's visit to Fiji, marks a further stage in the  
maturing relationship between our countries.

Since achieving independence, Fiji has won great respect  
in the South Pacific region and in the international  
community in general.

Fiji's contribution to international peace-keeping is  
very impressive. Your personal interest in this is  
widely respected.

Fiji's active participation in international affairs,  
such as at the UN Women's Conference in Nairobi last  
month, which you attended, Adi Mei, is valued by  
Australia.

The shared interests of Fiji and Australia were brought  
to the forefront again last week at the South Pacific  
Forum in Rarotonga

- Where my friend Prime Minister Ratu Mara and I were  
able, together with other Pacific leaders, to  
discuss the many matters of mutual concern which  
join the countries of our region so amicably  
together.

The shared interests of Forum countries range from  
concerns over trade and telecommunications, the special  
problems of smaller states and regional political  
questions such as New Caledonia.

As a region, we share jointly the responsibility for peace and security, for our environment, and for our future prosperity

The endorsement given by the Raratonga Forum to the Treaty for the Establishment of a Nuclear Free Zone in the South Pacific is of historic importance

- Australia is pleased that Fiji as well as Australia and six other Forum countries, was able to sign at Rarotonga
- We believe that the Treaty, endorsed on the 40th Anniversary of the nuclear devastation of the city of Horoshima, gives practical effect to Regional concerns about nuclear testing in the Pacific, the stationing of nuclear weapons and the dumping of radioactive waste
- And is a real step forward in arms control in a global as well as a regional sense.

The SPARTECA agreement is an area of particular concern to Fiji. At the Forum I was able to inform Heads of Government of the Australian Government's decisions to liberalise Forum island countries' access to the Australian market.

- Australia's and New Zealand's offer to enter into discussions about whether there would be an advantage in Forum countries joining a broadened Australia-New Zealand Close Economic Relations Agreement was also taken up.

I very much enjoyed my official visit to Suva last year as well as the pleasant and useful stopover which we had with Ratu Mara and Adi Lady Lala last weekend.

We supported with enthusiasm the decision to hold next year's Forum meeting in Suva and look forward to seeing you again there.

There are many diverse links joining our countries:

- QANTAS and Air Pacific are co-operating to assist your tourist industry.
- Our Defence Co-operation Program widens the experience of personnel in both our defence forces and is of benefit to both our countries.
- And I do not need to mention our countries' shared enthusiasm for rugby union.

Your Excellency

I spoke before of the maturing relationship between Australia and Fiji. Let us look forward to our friendship and co-operation continuing far into the future.