

**THE HONOURABLE PAUL KEATING
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA
and
HIS EXCELLENCY MR KIICHI MIYAZAWA
PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN**

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ON ASIA-PACIFIC PERSPECTIVES

At their meeting today Prime Ministers Keating and Miyazawa affirmed the value of the Australia-Japan relationship and their confidence in the future benefits it will bring to both countries and to the Asia-Pacific region.

2. A major theme of the discussion at the meeting was shared recognition of the momentous changes in the Asia-Pacific region following the end of the Cold War. The two leaders noted especially that new opportunities and challenges also derive from the continuing dynamism of Asia-Pacific economies and increasing moves towards regional trading arrangements. They confirmed their resolve to address the changes now unfolding in the region from a long-term perspective, and in ways that further promote the cooperative relations that have been nurtured so far in the region. They reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate jointly with other Asia-Pacific nations in the furtherance of peace and prosperity in the region.

3. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the view of their Governments that the engagement of the United States is of fundamental importance to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, with the presence of US forces in the Western Pacific serving as a stabilising factor. They noted that the respective defence relationships of Australia and Japan with the United States, including Japan's substantial host-nation support for US forces, made a significant contribution to regional stability.

4. The two leaders affirmed that Australia and Japan are resolved to cooperate where feasible in the resolution of regional issues of conflict. Prime Minister Keating supported a more active Japanese international role and welcomed Japan's decision to participate in United Nations peace-keeping activities. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their full support for the role played by the United Nations in Cambodia. They confirmed that Australia and Japan would continue to cooperate closely in efforts to move the peace process forward.

5. They welcomed the improved diplomatic environment on and surrounding the Korean peninsula, and expressed hope for a further reduction of tension. They underlined their grave concern about North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program, and insisted on the necessity of the full implementation of the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and of an effective bilateral inspection regime.

6. Prime Ministers Keating and Miyazawa welcomed the valuable contribution of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) towards regional cooperation. They noted the growing significance of the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference process as a forum for dialogue on regional security. They supported regional security dialogue in order to improve mutual reassurance and stability, while recognising the importance of existing sub-regional approaches for the resolution of specific disputes.

7. In discussing the outlook for the world economy and the implications for the Australian and Japanese national economies, they noted that the Asia-Pacific region contains some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and that its future prosperity would depend significantly on trade growth. They also recognised that the region's economic success to date demonstrated the benefits of the globalisation of economic activity through worldwide integration of trade, investment and technology.

8. The two leaders reaffirmed the fundamental importance Australia and Japan attach to the maintenance of an open, non-discriminatory, multilateral trade system. They accorded priority to an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, which will provide a significant and needed boost to the world economy. They noted that a balanced outcome was within reach, involving positive results for industrial and agricultural products, rule-making areas, and new areas such as services. They stressed that a demonstration of political will by all participants will be needed if these benefits for the world economy are to be realised in good time.

9. In noting the increasing trend towards regional trading arrangements, the two leaders emphasised the view of their Governments that such arrangements should be open and consistent with GATT and other international obligations, and should contribute to expansion of the world economy without adversely affecting the interests of third countries in trade and other areas.

10. Both Prime Ministers reaffirmed their support for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as an essential mechanism for open regional economic cooperation. They also reaffirmed their intention to continue promoting its role in the liberalisation of trade.

11. The two Prime Ministers discussed the need for international and regional institutions to reflect better the growing weight of the Asia-Pacific region in world affairs. They called for increased attention to Asia-Pacific issues at the annual G7 economic summits. Prime Minister Keating briefed Prime Minister Miyazawa on the reactions so far of other regional leaders to his proposal for establishing over the medium term a process of periodic heads-of-government meetings based on APEC membership. Prime Minister Miyazawa said he regarded the proposal as very significant in view of the rapidly changing international environment and the increasing importance of the region. He welcomed Australia's initiative and agreed that the idea be pursued further in consultation with other members of the region. Prime Minister Keating affirmed Australia's support for Japan's permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council so as to have the United Nations better reflect changed international circumstances.

Tokyo
21 September 1992