



PRIME MINISTER

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SPEECH GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER AT
PRESIDENT CHUN'S DINNER ON 6 FEBRUARY 1984.

MR PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

IT GIVES ME GREAT SATISFACTION TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THIS, MY
FIRST VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

THE TRAGEDY IN RANGOON WHICH PREVENTED YOUR INTENDED VISIT LAST
YEAR TO AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTED TO MY DECISION TO COME HERE NOW. I
COMMUNICATED TO YOU AT THE TIME AUSTRALIA'S SYMPATHY ON YOUR LOSSES
AND OUR REVULSION AT THE BOMBING OUTRAGE. YOU WILL ALSO BE AWARE OF
THE SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS MY GOVERNMENT TOOK IN RESPONSE.

THE BOMBING, AND THE KOREAN AIRLINES INCIDENT A MONTH EARLIER,
BROUGHT HOME TO THE WORLD THE FRAGILITY OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN
YOUR REGION, AND THE NEED FOR US ALL TO CONSIDER WAYS OF REDUCING THE
TENSIONS THAT EXIST HERE.

IN THE 35 YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN
1948, AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR THE ROK HAS BEEN CONSISTENT AND
PRINCIPLED.

WHEN, IN 1950, WE CONTRIBUTED FORCES TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN
KOREA, WE DID SO OUT OF A FIRM RESOLVE TO SUPPPORT YOUR SOVIEREIGN
RIGHTS.

IT IS A MATTER OF SATISFACTION THAT THE 1953 ARMISTICE HAS PROOVED
EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING A RESUMPTION OF WAR ON THE PENINSULA.
VIOLENT INCIDENTS NEVERTHELESS PERSIST AND UNDERLINE NOT ONLY THE
NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD FAITH AMONG THE PARTIES, BUT ALSO THE
NEED FOR RENUNCIATION OF FORCE AS A MEANS OF DETERMINING POSITIONS.

THE REALITY, WHICH AUSTRALIA HAS RECOGNISED FOR MANY YEARS, IS THAT
THERE EXIST ON THE PENINSULA TWO STATES AND TWO GOVERNMENTS. BOTH
GOVERNMENTS ARE KOREAN, THE PEOPLE ARE OF THE SAME STOCK AND SPEAK
THE SAME LANGUAGE. BUT THERE ARE PROFOUND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
TWO SOCIETIES IN THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT.

RECONCILIATION OF DIFFERENCES IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IS OBVIOUSLY
EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT.
CONTINUED STABLE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT HERE IN THE
ROK IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT.

WE WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR EFFORTS, AND, MR PRESIDENT
LOOK FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN THE DIVERSITY OF POLOTICAL
OPINION IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA MAY FIND FULLER
EXPRESSION IN YOUR POLITICAL SYSTEM.

THERE HAS BEEN A WARMTH AND AFFECTION IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS DERIVED FROM OUR ASSOCIATION IN WAR, THE CLOSE LINKS WHICH DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA AND KOREA, AND THE INTEREST AND SUPPORT WHICH AUSTRALIA HAS FELT FOR THE KOREAN PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA A SOCIETY BASED ON SOUND AND STABLE FOUNDATIONS.

MR PRESIDENT,

GIVEN THE ARRAY AND CHARACTER OF DPRK FORCES DIRECTED AGAINST YOU, AUSTRALIA UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR CONCERN AND VIGILANCE.

WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S NEGOTIATING POSITION, BECAUSE IT ACKNOWLEDGES THE EXISTENCE OF THE DPRK AND IT EMBODIES A READINESS FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS.

THE APPROACH FOLLOWED IN THE PAST BY THE DPRK OF REJECTING THE LEGITIMACY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC.

WE HAVE BEEN SHOCKED AND DISMAYED BY THE DPRK'S UNCONSCIONABLE OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES.

WE HAVE INFORMED THE DPRK THAT UNTIL IT SHOWS THAT IT IS PREPARED TO ABIDE BY INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL FOR A RESTORATION OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH AUSTRALIA.

NEVERTHELESS, WE LOOK FORWARD TO A TIME WHEN, TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE WHOLE REGION AS WELL AS FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ALL KOREANS, THE DPRK CAN ENTER INTO A PRACTICAL AND SENSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH US ALL: INCLUDING YOUR GOVERNMENT.

WE HOPE THAT THE FIRMNESS AND STEADINESS WITH WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED TO RECENT CRISES, AND THE BROAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT YOU HAVE RECEIVED, WILL CONVINCED THE DPRK OF THE FUTILITY OF ITS NEGATIVE APPROACH, AND ENCOURAGE IT TO NEGOTIATE ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH YOU.

THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT INDICATIONS OF A DISPOSITION ON THE SIDE OF THE DPRK TO CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS ONCE AGAIN. AUSTRALIA HAS FOLLOWED THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH INTEREST. WE HAVE DONE SO, NOT AS A COUNTRY WITH INTERESTS DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA, BUT AS ONE STRONGLY MINDFUL OF THE RISKS POSED TO REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY BY CONTINUED TENSION AND CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PROTAGONISTS. THERE ARE CLEARLY MANY QUESTIONS TO BE RESOLVED, BUT WE WOULD HOPE THAT A WAY COULD BE FOUND BY WHICH BOTH THE DPRK AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMMENCE FACE TO FACE NEGOTIATIONS.

UNTIL THIS HAPPENS WE ARE DOUBTFUL THERE CAN BE ANY REAL PROGRESS.

MR PRESIDENT,

THE SITUATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA HAS A BROADER DIMENSION. IN THE PAST, BECAUSE A RANGE OF GREAT POWER INTERESTS ARE ENGAGED, IT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO TENSIONS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS.

THIS GIVES FURTHER URGENCY TO THE NEED FOR RESOLUTION OF THE SO-CALLED 'KOREAN PROBLEM'.

IN SAYING THIS I AM PARTICULARLY MINDFUL THAT WE HAVE RETURNED TO AN ERA OF DISTRUST AND SUSPICION BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS.

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS HAVE STALLED: THE BASIS FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THEM HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ERODED AND THE NUMBER OF CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE SEEM TO HAVE NARROWED SIGNIFICANTLY.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RECENT ATTEMPT TO FREE THE SITUATION UP AND TO INDICATE POSSIBLE AVENUES FOR CO-OPERATION REFLECTED NOT ONLY AN APPRECIATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE POSITION NOW EXISTING BETWEEN THE SUPER-POWERS, BUT ALSO A GENUINE INTEREST IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE UNDERLYING ISSUES AT STAKE.

HIS INITIATIVE DESERVES A MORE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE THAN THAT INITIALLY GIVEN BY THE SOVIET UNION.

THE ISSUES INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT, ARE SO LARGE THAT TO TURN ONE'S FACE AGAINST EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF PROGRESS WOULD BE A BETRAYAL NOT ONLY OF THE COUNTLESS MILLIONS WHO ARE WITHOUT POWER TO INFLUENCE WORLD AFFAIRS DIRECTLY, BUT OF UNBORN GENERATIONS WHOSE FUTURE ALL NATIONS HOLD IN TRUST.

YOUR PEOPLE, MR PRESIDENT, KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THE DEVASTATION OF WAR. PERHAPS MORE THAN MOST COUNTRIES YOURS WOULD APPRECIATE THAT GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD MUST ACCEPT THE OBLIGATION TO WORK INDIVIDUALLY AND TOGETHER FOR A REDUCTION IN THE STOCKPILES OF WEAPONRY WHICH PLACE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AT RISK. NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ALONE DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THESE ISSUES. THEIR CALCULATIONS - THEIR MISCALCULATIONS - COULD AFFECT US ALL OR ELIMINATE US ALL.

AUSTRALIA IS VERY MINDFUL THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF OUR SECURITY ARRANGMENTS UNDER ANZUS, JOINT AUSTRALIA/UNITED STATES FACILITIES ARE PRESENT ON AUSTRALIAN SOIL. THESE PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN MAINTAINING WESTERN SECURITY. THEY ALSO MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE VERIFICATION OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS.

MORE GENERALLY MY GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED RAPIDLY TO ESTABLISH OUR INTEREST IN THE SUPPORT FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR DISARMAMENT.

WE ARE WORKING FOR THE REVITALISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME AND FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE THAT COULD LEAD TO AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE AND FULLY VERIFIABLE BAN ON NUCLEAR TESTING.

WE RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS NO FOOL-PROOF MEANS OF PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES, BUT AUSTRALIA IS AMONG THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE PROCESS CAN AND SHOULD BE SLOWED AND THE COSTS TO THE PROLIFERATOR INCREASED.

AS A PRODUCER AND EXPORTER OF URANIUM WE RECOGNISE OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER NPT ARTICLE IV TO FACILITATE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND INFORMATION FOR THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY, WITH DUE CONSIDERATION FOR THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING AREAS

OF THE WORLD. IN LINE WITH THIS, AUSTRALIA ALSO ACCEPTS THAT IT HAS A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY TO SECURE IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR PEACEFUL USES.

WE ARE OF THE STRONG VIEW THAT ANY EAST/WEST AGREEMENTS TO LIMIT DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MUST BE GLOBAL IN NATURE.

THE TENSIONS CREATED IN THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION AS A RESULT OF THE SOVIET DEPLOYMENT OF SS20'S IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE USSR PRESENT A THREAT TO US ALL.

PRESIDENT CHUN: IN SPITE OF THE TENSIONS AND THREATS OF WAR TO WHICH YOUR NATION IS EXPOSED, THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THAT OF YOUR PREDECESSOR HAVE BUILT A REMARKABLE MODERN NATION-STATE.

WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THAT.

MR PRESIDENT,

DESPITE THE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO SOCIETIES, THE MOST INSISTENT ELEMENTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP TODAY ARE THOSE WHICH DRAW US TOGETHER. ECONOMICALLY, WE ARE ALREADY VERY IMPORTANT TO EACH OTHER. POLITICALLY, THE ROK IS BEGINNING TO HAVE A REGIONAL ROLE MORE APPROPRIATE TO ITS POPULATION AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH.

AS YOUR ECONOMY HAS DEVELOPED, THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF IMAGINATIVE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, DARING ENTERPRENEURSHIP AND THE EFFORTS OF YOUR INDUSTRIOUS AND SKILLED PEOPLE, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT WE HAVE MUCH TO OFFER EACH OTHER.

AUSTRALIA'S VAST MINERAL RESOURCES, DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMPARATIVE NEARNESS TO YOU HAVE MADE AUSTRALIA A COMPETITIVE AND FUNDAMENTALLY RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF RAW MATERIALS OF KOREA'S RAPIDLY EXPANDING INDUSTRIES.

AUSTRALIA HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE RISE IN YOUR LIVING STANDARDS BY ITS EXPORTS OF COMPETITIVE AND HIGH QUALITY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

IN RETURN, KOREAN EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA OF MANUFACTURED GOODS HAVE ENHANCED OUR STANDARDS OF LIVING ALSO.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF THIS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

INDEED, I SHOULD EXPECT THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY MUTUAL LIBERALISATION OF TRADING ARRANGMENTS BETWEEN US IN THE COURSE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL BE CONSIDERABLE.

MR PRESIDENT: WE WELCOME THE ROK'S READINESS TO TAKE A BROADER INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION.

THE REGION AS IT AFFECTS YOUR COUNTRY HAS CHANGED AND DEVELOPED.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS NOW A SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PARTNER IN THE REGION, A FACT RECOGNISED AND APPRECIATED BY MOST OTHER REGIONAL STATES.

AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS ALSO INCREASINGLY BEEN STRUCTURED TOWARDS DEVELOPING A FULL, PROPER AND EQUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS.

WE ENJOY SUBSTANTIAL TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

BUT OUR TRADING AND POLITICAL INTERESTS HAVE SEEN THE EMERGENCE OF CLOSE AND IMPORTANT LINKS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS WITH CHINA, JAPAN AND THE NEWLY-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC.

AUSTRALIA NOW HAS A WELL-ESTABLISHED ROLE IN THE REGION.

IT IS A ROLE WHICH, IN ASIA, REFLECTS NOT ONLY THE EMERGENCE OF EXTENSIVE AND GROWING ECONOMIC LINKS BUT ALSO A GROWING SENSE OF THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

AUSTRALIA HAS ALSO SOUGHT TO PLAY A SUPPORTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PART IN SOUTH PACIFIC AFFAIRS WITHOUT INTRUDING UPON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF OTHER STATES.

THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE PACIFIC WILL COMMAND OUR CONTINUING ATTENTION.

THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, IS THE PART OF THE WORLD WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL GROWTH.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY HOW WE MIGHT BEST MOVE TO ENSURE THAT POTENTIAL IS FULLY REALIZED.

I KNOW, MR PRESIDENT, THIS IS A MATTER YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

I AM ALSO AWARE THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SOME CIRCLES, IN THE PROSPECTS FOR A PACIFIC COMMUNITY.

WE DON'T SEE THIS AS SOMETHING FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IF

A RANGE OF FORMAL MECHANISMS AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, IS ENVISATED.

INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY IN BALI NONETHELESS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED SOME POTENTIALLY PRODUCTIVE THEMES OF CO-OPERATION WHICH COULD USEFULLY BE EXPLORED FURTHER.

THE PROPOSED PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE IN SEOUL IN 1985, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE BALI MEETING, SHOULD BE OF PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE IN CARRYING THESE MATTERS FORWARD.

MORE IMMEDIATELY THE SUGGESTION I PUT FORWARD IN BANGKOK LAST NOVEMBER THAT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION IN THE LEAD-UP TO A NEW GLOBAL TRADE ROUND - SHOULD SUCH A ROUND MATERIALISE - OFFERS AN IMMEDIATELY VALUABLE MEANS OF SECURING ATTENTION TO THE PARTICULAR TRADING INTERESTS OF COUNTRIES OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION.

MR PRESIDENT,

THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY MY VISIT FOR BROAD DISCUSSIONS OF THESE MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST HAS BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED.

I KNOW THAT THE PERSONAL TIES WE HAVE FORGED WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER GROWTH OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.

I HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY BEFORE LONG TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

TOAST

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

PLEASE JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF HIS EXCELLENCY CHUN DOO-HWAN, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO THE FUTURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.