

Mr. President,

I am grateful for this opportunity to address the National
Press Club and through you a much wider audience of
Australians, to all of whom I ~~would~~ send my
greetings and those of my countrymen in Britain.

I have been asked why I have come to Australia within ^{two} ~~three~~
months of taking office as Prime Minister.

There are two reasons.

First, and most important, I believe that Anglo/Australian
relations matter: and, secondly, you in Australia and
we in the UK have a shared interest in many
international problems which I was glad to have this
opportunity of discussing with your Prime Minister and
his colleagues.

To take our own relationship first: the purpose of my visit
is to underline its closeness, its importance and
its continuing relevance to the issues we both face.

/I have come

I have come to show that we ^{in fact} value the strong ties we have with Australia, ties which embrace so many aspects of our lives.

We have historical, democratic, ethnic, legal and cultural ties - and also family ^{ties} ones. - *social ties to many*

~~How often does a Prime Minister visit another country and find her own daughter among the professional local audience at such an occasion as this?~~

I confess that I see the UK/Australian relationship almost as much in personal as in political terms.

This is my third visit to Australia.

I came here first as Minister for Education, then as Leader of the Opposition and now I come as Prime Minister.

~~I must confess that~~
Although I like my present job best, I find that, regrettably, as my visits increase in frequency they diminish in length.

As a result there are many people and places in Australia that I have not been able to see this time.

A Prime Minister does not have it all her own way.

But although my visit has to be brief, I was at any rate able to insist on coming and in this way to show that I do not take our partnership for granted.

/ So I hope

So I hope that Australians will see in my visit an earnest of my Government's determination to continue that effort and remain true to our old friendships. I have every confidence that our specially close relationship can be maintained.

/Our links

Our links matter because they bear on the fundamentals of our free way of life - things like free speech, free elections and equality under the law. And if anyone is disposed to be sceptical ^{or cynical} about the value of these things, let them reflect on the misery which the loss of them has brought to ordinary people in less fortunate countries.

Our ties are also practical ^{and} business-like.

As evidence, may I mention the size and importance of British investment in Australia, which is still continuing, and our close trading relations.

I know there have been setbacks in some areas: but there are also plenty of new opportunities for growth. One important example is uranium.

We in Britain already have an important nuclear power industry.

We wish to diversify and buy ^{from} assured and reliable sources of supply ^{like} ~~such as~~ Australia.

Of course there must be reasonable safeguards against accident and misuse and I am proud of the British record in these respects.

Australia now has a chance at one and the same time to make a major contribution to meeting the world's growing energy problems and to building up Australia's influence in the world, greatly to your own benefit and that of the international community as a whole.

/This leads me

This leads me to the many pressing international problems which I am very glad to have been able to discuss with your Government in the talks we have had yesterday and today.

As you know, I came to Canberra straight from the Economic Summit Meeting in Tokyo.

I should like to tell you a little about it.

This was the Energy Summit.

It was ironic that the OPEC countries should have announced their plans for a further major increase in the price of oil while we were still in session in Tokyo.

This put into sharp focus the problems and the dangers of the energy situation in a world economy which is in any case slowing down.

Three linked themes kept recurring during our discussions:

- First, we all recognised that the problems of the fourth quarter of this century are very different from those of its third quarter.

/In the

In the 1950s, the free world's market economy was rebuilt and this was followed, in the 1960s, by the fastest period of economic growth which the world has ever seen.

Now, as we approach the 1980s, our pre-occupation is with beating inflation and with coping with the energy shortage.

This calls for new solutions and strong nerves: but the economy of the free world is resilient: it can adapt and adjust to this new challenge if we are patient.

- Second, the Seven governments whose Heads met in Tokyo are very conscious that the new situation damages everybody, producer and non-producer countries alike.

/The developing

The developing countries will suffer most of all, suffer from the risk of greater instability in the world.

We in Britain, although we shall soon be supplying 85% of our requirements from North Sea oil, identify^{with}/the interests of consumers.

Britain is not an island in this matter: nor are the oil producers.

- Third, we were all deeply conscious of our responsibility to give a lead to our respective countries and to tell them very frankly what they and we ought to do as well as what governments can and cannot do.

We knew that if we left the impression that we were failing to face up to facts, or that we were taking refuge in pious platitudes, our meeting in Tokyo could easily have done far more harm than good.

Inevitably, every multilateral negotiation must involve an element of compromise: but I think the Tokyo Declaration largely achieved our objective of combining realism and candour, spelling out the targets and the goals at which we shall be aiming between now and 1985 in order to bring the demand and supply for oil into better balance.

/In the field

In the field of overseas policy we share membership of the Commonwealth, and, in this connection, I want to pay tribute to Mr. Fraser's initiative in calling the first Commonwealth Regional Conference in Sydney last year. I also welcome the successor conference planned in New Delhi in 1980.

We both see the Commonwealth as a unique bridge, a bridge which spans so many of the chasms that normally divide the world - divisions of colour, creed, climate and economic opportunity.

One regional concern that we share is our common indignation and distress at the tragic problem of refugees in this part of the world.

We are concerned by its cause and we are concerned in its cure.

We are appalled by the sufferings of the thousands of refugees who have been cast adrift in South-East Asia.

And we, of course, have a special anxiety for the position of Hong Kong on whom an extra and utterly disproportionate burden has been placed.

Hence my initiative in proposing a conference under

/United Nations

United Nations auspices, a call to which there has been growing response.

Next month, Commonwealth Heads of Government meet in Lusaka. It will be an important and a challenging meeting. We have a positive approach to the difficult problems on the Lusaka agenda.

Britain's particular concern is to bring peace and stability to Africa: *but also to new democracy in Africa.* this is one of our major priorities in the field of foreign affairs.

Southern Africa presents two particularly difficult problems.

On Namibia we are working with other Western countries to reach early agreement on the five-power plan for UN-supervised elections.

The other problem is Rhodesia.

My Government are determined to bring the country back to legality with the widest possible international recognition.

/We also intend

We also intend to do everything possible to end the war, which is causing such terrible suffering in Rhodesia itself and in neighbouring countries.

No way of achieving these aims is excluded.

We have embarked on a programme of intensive consultations.

Lord Harlech has recently returned from Africa where he had constructive discussions with leaders of the countries most closely concerned.

We have a senior official in Salisbury, based in London, to keep in touch with Bishop Muzorewa, to provide him with encouragement and support in his difficult tasks.

There will be further consultations at the Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka - and that will not be the end of the process.

We are taking full account of the views of our friends and partners in the Commonwealth and outside.

But our first responsibility must be to the people of Rhodesia - it is their future which is at stake.

I should like to end by telling you something of the aspirations and visions I hold for Britain because I know many of you have for Britain the sort of affection that I and many of my countrymen and women hold for Australia.

/First, we are

we are determined to turn the British economy round and put an end to the debilitating decline of the past decade.

This will not be easy.

But the turn has begun and the British people have seen and responded to the new course we are taking.

This will help us to achieve our second aspiration, which is to enable Britain to play her proper part in the world, after years during which our economic weakness severely limited the extent to which we could play a constructive role in the world's affairs.

We shall do so now as a whole-hearted member of the European Community and as a Commonwealth partner committed to its ideals.

A more prosperous and a more internationally effective Britain will be in Australia's interests as well as in those of our own people.

We intend to achieve it.