

PRIME MINISTER

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YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE: INDONESIA

You are to give a press conference in your guest house - first floor - soon after your return from Bandung. There will be little time for briefing; you should therefore have this note now.

Protocol in Indonesia requires their State Secretary for Information to introduce you. I will then take over and select the questioners who will include representatives of the Indonesian Women's Organisation; I shall call them.

Afterwards, I think you should give short news interviews to BBC (radio and TV) and ITN.

As of now, only East Timor presents a real problem in terms of Anglo/Indonesian relations. On this you will be able to announce that President Soeharto has confirmed that the International Red Cross have ~~absolutely~~ free access to the area, and are welcome in that part of Indonesia.

The other "issue" is our aid approach to Indonesia on which you are very well briefed.

There is, however, one presentational problem:

- how to make this visit appear positive and fruitful without the following:
  - (a) any contracts to prove it (the first of the Tribal class frigates is due to be handed over this month);
  - (b) anything more tangible in terms of a warming up of relations, apart from President Soeharto joining you on the visit to the Indonesia in Miniature exhibition;

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- (c) my briefing yesterday, as rehearsed with you, on the theme running through your talks with President Soeharto - namely, the need to promote self-reliance, responsibility and stability.

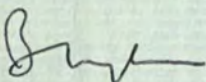
So far as the British press is concerned, and subject to the COI News Digest and events, there are a number of issues which they may try to raise, though without I think much conviction.

- Mark Thatcher's reported involvement with another (blonde) girl; seen coming out of No. 10 with her last week and getting into a police car with her - No. 10 supplying a line today;
- the Labour Party row over your remarks on the "seeing off" of the coal strike. (On this I have said that the Labour Party is green with envy over your coverage and they are playing into your hands by keeping the story going);
- Sudan (not much new);
- your style of Government;
- the independent deterrent, arms control.

You should also know that Neil Macfarlane has criticised the £7500 fine against the Saudi Authorities. We have not reacted.

I hope this is helpful. But we ought to concentrate on the draft text attached, given that time for your press conference is so short.

Content?



10 April 1985

## DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT: INDONESIA PRESS CONFERENCE

Very shortly my visit to Indonesia - the very first by a British Prime Minister - will be coming to its end.

This is therefore the right moment to sum up the 2½ days I have spent in Indonesia - and mostly in the capital of a country of enormous size, range - across 5000 KM of the Pacific - potential and strategic importance.

I must say that I think that Britain has ~~neglected~~ <sup>paid insufficient attention to</sup> Indonesia ~~for far too long~~. I hope - indeed intend - that my visit will be followed up by more Ministerial contacts with Indonesian Ministers so that we can get to know each other better - and thereby create the right basis for future cooperation.

Yesterday, President Soeharto and I had a very wide ranging discussion of the issues confronting South East Asia and the world. It was conducted in the very best of spirits - in an atmosphere of mutual goodwill - and I believe my objective of promoting and raising the momentum <sup>of our</sup> and political and economic relationship has been amply fulfilled.

I am particularly appreciative that President Soeharto and his wife spared the time to travel the 20 kms outside Jakarta to join me in a visit to the Indonesia of Miniature exhibition.

In our bilateral talks we discussed many things:

- Indonesia's agricultural and industrial development;
- areas in which we might help - for example, communications of all kinds; technology, aerospace, education - especially training in the English language;

/ - the world economy

- the world economy;
- East-West relations and arms control; and
- regional issues, notably ASEAN, Vietnam/Cambodia, and the Hong Kong agreement.

The theme of our entire discussion was the need to maintain and develop stability in this very difficult world in which we live.

The European Community, shortly to be enlarged and greatly strengthened as a democratic grouping by the accession of Portugal and Spain, is one example of the stability. But so is ASEAN in which Indonesia plays an important part. I wish it well. But I wish Indonesia even more. As a major partner in ASEAN, this country of 160million people, has an enormous role to play.

I am confident it will do so, just as I am confident that a ~~newly~~ resurgent Britain, in terms of entrepreneurial drive, will ~~develop~~ trading links with Indonesia.

There is an enormous amount to do between us to realise our trade and cooperative potential, not merely to serve our citizens but also promote business and jobs.

We have, of course, discussed the main issues confronting the world, and especially this part of the world.

But trade is also a major issue because trade brings us together and identifies our interests.

I hope that trade between Indonesia and Britain will increase as a result of my visit. Indeed I expect it to do so, because I believe my mission has been accomplished - namely to give momentum to Anglo-Indonesian relations.

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We are the best of friends, and I believe there is no adequate basis for future collaboration between our nations <sup>without</sup> ~~than~~ friendship, understanding and a desire to do business with each other.

These are, I think, the positive outcome of the last forty-eight hours.