

**November 4, 1973**

**Cablegram from the Australian Embassy Peking,  
'Prime Minister's Discussions with Premier Chou  
En-Lai'**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

Cable from Australian Embassy in Beijing to Australian Foreign Ministry reporting Prime Minister's meeting with Zhou Enlai and indicating China's framework of foreign policy in Asia-Pacific.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## INWARD CABLEGRAM

JAD10

FROM

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
PEKING

I.126692

TOD 04.11.73...1110 LT

TOR 04.11.73...1608 LT

1185 CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI.

IN WIDE RANGING TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, CHOU EN-LAI ADOPTED THE LOOSELY STRUCTURED APPROACH WE HAD EXPECTED. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS PARTICULARLY RELAXED AND FRIENDLY.

BILATERAL.

2. ALTHOUGH CHOU SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTIES IN HIS UNDERTAKING A VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, HE DESCRIBED OUR PROPOSALS ON MINISTERIAL VISITS AND OFFICIALS CONSULTATIONS AS "A VERY GOOD IDEA" AND SPOKE OF CHINA'S NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AUSTRALIA AND ITS CLOSE NEIGHBOURS. WHEN THE QUESTION OF FAMILY REUNIONS INVOLVING AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS OF CHINESE DESCENT WAS RAISED, CHOU AT ONCE GAVE A FAVOURABLE RESPONSE. HE SAID THAT, SUBJECT TO OUR EMBASSY'S APPROVAL, RELATIVES OF OVERSEAS CHINESE OR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS OF CHINESE DESCENT LIVING IN AUSTRALIA WHO WANTED TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA TO VISIT OR TAKE UP RESIDENCE WOULD BE FREE TO DO SO AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES MAY ASSIST WITH TRAVEL EXPENSES.

MAJOR POWER RELATIONSHIPS.

3. AS EXPECTED, CHOU MADE FREQUENT REFERENCE TO THE SOVIET UNION BUT DID NOT SEEK TO PRESS HIS VIEWS. HE REAFFIRMED THAT CHINA WANTED UNITED STATES TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM ASIAN COUNTRIES, BUT TOOK CARE TO POINT OUT THAT THIS OBJECTIVE WAS ONLY FEASIBLE IF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED HAD ADEQUATE MEANS OF DEFENDING THEMSELVES. WITHDRAWAL BEFORE THIS CONDITION WAS MET, COULD RESULT IN A WORSE SITUATION PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOVIET OR (IN THE CASE OF SOUTH KOREA) JAPANESE ENCROACHMENT.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

4. CHOU'S REMARKS SUGGESTED SOME INCREASED INTEREST IN THE REGION. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS AND ANNOUNCED THAT A SERIES OF NEW INITIATIVES WERE TO BE MADE ON THE QUESTION OF DUAL NATIONALITY. AS A FIRST STEP A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

11/25  
12/1/73  
R. J. L.

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WOULD BE ISSUED OPPOSING DUAL NATIONALITY., AGREEMENTS ON THE NATIONALITY OF OVERSEAS CHINESE WOULD BE SIGNED WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, SUCH AS CAMBODIA AND THE D.R.V., AND, THIRDLY, A LAW WOULD BE PROMULGATED ON THE SUBJECT, FORBIDDING CHINESE WHO HAD TAKEN ANY OTHER NATIONALITY FROM CLAIMING CHINESE NATIONALITY.

5. CHOU HOPED THAT CHINA WOULD MAKE A BREAK-THROUGH IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE INITIATIVES ON DUAL NATIONALITY WOULD HELP TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE AND WOULD ALSO BE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO MALAYSIA, WITH WHOM NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN RESUMED IN NEW YORK. CHOU MENTIONED THAT ROMULO HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA.

6. CHOU DID NOT PRESS ON THE QUESTION OF CAMBODIA. JAPAN.

7. CHOU REAFFIRMED THE CHINESE VIEW THAT JAPAN WAS AT A CROSS-ROADS. HE SAID THAT AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN COULD BE REGARDED AS A TEST OF WHETHER JAPAN WAS NOW PREPARED TO DEVELOP ITS RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, ON A BASIS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. HE REITERATED CHINA'S CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE REVIVAL OF MILITARISM.

KOREA.

8. CHOU REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR D.P.R.K.'S POSITION EMPHASISING PARTICULARLY THE NEED FOR A TRANSITIONAL FRAMEWORK UNTIL REUNIFICATION COULD BE ACHIEVED. HE CLAIMED THAT KIM'S CONFEDERAL PROPOSAL WAS THE BEST MEANS OF PROVIDING THIS.

BANGLA DESH.

9. PRIME MINISTER PUT HIS VIEWS ON BANGLA DESH FIRMLY AND AT SOME LENGTH. CHOU REPEATED THAT CHINA WOULD ONLY AGREE TO THE ENTRY OF BANGLA DESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS AFTER THE TWO UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

REGIONAL COOPERATION.

10. CHOU SAID CHINA WOULD FAVOUR ALL COUNTRIES IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION TAKING A CONCERTED STAND ON PEACE AND NEUTRALITY, BUT THIS KIND OF COOPERATION WOULD TAKE TIME

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TO ACHIEVE. OBSTACLES INCLUDED THE REMAINING UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND, INDONESIA'S ATTITUDE (HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN VIETNAM ICCS AS A "RESPRESENTATIVE" OF THE UNITED STATES) AND THE LACK OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND A NUMBER OF REGIONAL COUNTRIES.

IBRD/IMF.

11. CHOU DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE QUESTION OF THE EXPULSION OF TAIWAN AND RECOGNITION OF CHINA'S RIGHT OF MEMBERSHIP ON THE ONE HAND AND THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION ON THE OTHER. PARTICIPATION WOULD DEPEND ON REQUIREMENTS OF CHINESE POLICY. CHOU POINTED OUT THAT IT COULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT CHINA WOULD FOLLOW THE SOVIET PATTERN, AS CHINA NOW PARTICIPATED IN FAO AND SOVIET UNION DID NOT.

A/PRIME MINISTER  
A/FOREIGN MINISTER  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MIN AND DEPT DEFENCE  
JIO  
MIN AND DEPT IMMIGRATION  
MIN AND DEPT OVERSEAS TRADE  
MIN AND DEPT SECONDARY INDUSTRY  
TREASURER AND TREASURY  
PM AND C  
PMS

ACTION: NA

SEC	DEP	SEC(A)	DEP	SEC(B)	PR	MCO	MR	BODY	STE	FAS(SA)
SEA	MN	FAS(NWA)	NA	WAME	FAS(PW)	PC	ECSA	FAS(DEF)		
DP	IC	FAS(DVP)	AID	ICR	FAS(IO)	EP	UNIA	FAS(CL)		
LT	CPI	FAS(MS)								

BANGKOK	COLOMBO	DACCA	HANOI	HONG KONG	ISLAMABAD	JAKARTA
KUALA LUMPUR	LONDON	MANILA	MOSCOW	NEW DELHI	NEW YORK	UN
OTTAWA	PARIS	PHNOM PENH	PORT MORESBY	RANGOON	SAIGON	
SEOUL	SINGAPORE	TOKYO	VIENNA	VIENTIANE	WASHINGTON	
WELLINGTON						

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