

June 17, 1954
Notes on Possible Topics for Discussion with Chou En-lai
[Zhou Enlai]

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Summary:

The notes indicates Australia's focus on peace in Indochina and improving relations with China.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

- Scan of Original Document

Chou En-lai

NOTES ON POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION
WITH CHOU EN-LAI.

- (1) Australia is deeply concerned about achieving peace in Asia and the early peaceful settlement of the Indo-China problem.
- (2) However, we attach very great importance to the real distinction between the situations in Laos and Cambodia as compared with that of Vietnam.
- (3) We welcome the progress which appears to have been made at yesterday's meeting and in particular the constructive suggestions on Laos and Cambodia which Mr. Chou En-lai made to Mr. Eden.
- (4) We hope that this progress can be continued over the next few weeks, which will certainly be a critical period for peace in Asia. We also hope that there will be no developments in Indo-China itself which would complicate the situation and limit the possibilities of a negotiated settlement.
- (5) Straight private talking is one of the best ways of understanding the respective points of view and of overcoming difficulties, and we are very ready to hear Mr. Chou's point of view.
- (6) We regret that it has not been possible to reach an agreement on Korea. (Like Mr. Eden, you might say that you believe that the People's Republic of China would be invited to any important conference for the settlement of the Korean problem, but, of course, it is open to the United Nations to discuss Korea at any time.)
- (7) If a settlement were reached on Indo-China, this might make it possible to discuss the Korean problem in a better atmosphere and with better prospects of reaching agreement.
- (8) In any event, Australia is determined that the ^{Korean} Armistice should be maintained, and will continue its efforts for a peaceful settlement.
- (9) If the question of recognition is raised, you might consider speaking on the following lines:-
 - (a) That this will continue to be a difficult matter until there is a settlement of such problems as Korea and Indo-China.

(b) However, you welcome the noticeable improvement in the relations between the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China.

(c) This will be important in improving Australia's relations with the People's Republic of China for two reasons -

(i) Through the United Kingdom, we will be in a better position to reach a closer understanding;

(ii) In the past, treatment of the United Kingdom representatives in Peking has discouraged us in connection with our own relations with China.



17th June, 1954.

Free Laotian
movement!

Strength & determination
of our side

Elections - 12 months

Korea -
Sorry no
modus
vivendi
possible