THE EAST-WEST CENTER is an educational institution established in Hawaii in 1960 by the United States Congress. The Center's mandate is "to promote better relations and understanding among the nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States through cooperative study, training, and research."

Each year nearly 2,000 graduate students, scholars, professionals in business and government, and visiting specialists engage in research with the Center's international staff on major issues and problems facing the Asian and Pacific region. Since 1960, more than 30,000 men and women from the region have participated in the Center's cooperative programs.

The Center's research and educational activities are conducted in five institutes — Communication, Culture Learning, Environment and Policy, Population, and Resource Systems — and in its Pacific Islands Development Program, Open Grants, and Centerwide Programs.

Although principal funding continues to come from the U.S. Congress, more than 21 Asian and Pacific governments, as well as private agencies and corporations, have provided contributions for program support. The East-West Center is a public, nonprofit corporation with an international board of governors.
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I'm struck that this gathering of heads of state, together with scholars, journalists, and business leaders from the Asian/Pacific region, is precisely the kind of meeting and exchange envisioned when the East-West Center was established, observed EWC President Victor Hao Li in welcoming Australian Prime Minister Robert J. Hawke, AC, MP, to the Center.

Mr. Hawke, who had just completed his first official overseas mission as prime minister, was honored at a dinner sponsored by the East-West Center's international Board of Governors on June 19.

In an address following dinner, the prime minister reviewed his discussions with world leaders and pledged to strengthen Australia's role as a partner and participant in the Asian/Pacific region.

He emphasized that he did not presume to act in any way as a spokesman for the region or on behalf of any nation except Australia. "That is not my role and it is not Australia's version of its own role," he said. "We are not in the business of any pretensions about leadership in the region. We are about genuine partnership on the basis of equality."

Also speaking at the event was Ratu Sir Kamisese K.T. Mara, KBE, GCMG, prime minister of Fiji and a member of the EWC Board of Governors. In his remarks he traced the history of the Center's Pacific Islands Development Program, observing that its research has been an important contribution to the "articulation of the needs and aspirations of the people of the islands."

Prime Minister Hawke and Mrs. Hawke were greeted by an array of community and governmental leaders who also had the opportunity to meet other members of the prime minister's traveling party, including the Treasurer, the Honorable Paul J. Keating, MP; Sir Geoffrey Yeend, Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and Mr. Peter G.F. Henderson, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The evening's festivities included the presentation of ancient Hawaiian hulas by the Men and Women of Waimapuna, winner of the top cultural dance prize in Hawaii, and the presentation of a Hawaiian koa wood document box to the prime minister by Mr. Kenneth F.C. Char, chairman of the EWC Board of Governors. Mr. Char noted that the gift was presented "with warmest aloha in appreciation of Australia's active participation in the Center's programs to encourage understanding and cooperation in the Asian/Pacific area."

Dr. Li noted that Australia is a nation with strong diplomatic ties with other Asian/Pacific countries, adding that Australia's "active participation in the East-West Center's program is in itself testament to its deep interest in the Pacific region."

Since the Center was established in 1960, more than 900 Australian men and women — graduate students, senior scholars, government officials, journalists and business leaders — have studied and worked at the Center with their colleagues from throughout the region.

Australia, in 1975, was the first nation in the region to make a financial contribution to the Center for program support and has continued to do so annually. "We are grateful for Australia's financial and intellectual support," Dr. Li said, "not only because it has allowed us to expand our programs. Even more important is Australia's demonstration of true partnership with the United States and other Asian/Pacific governments to strengthen this institution's programs, fostering mutual understanding of issues critical to the future of the region."

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who welcomed Mr. Hawke on behalf of the Board of Governors, expressed appreciation for Australia's support of the EWC Pacific Islands Development Program which was established after an unprecedented meeting of the heads of government and top...
government officials from 20 Pacific Islands nations in 1980 at the Center. 

"The Conference was essentially a search for and development of ideals that are in keeping with our identity and self-respect as independent island nations," the Fijian prime minister said. "Of course this does not mean a return to the old ways, for that would be both impossible and undesirable. But it does mean a conscious process of adjustment, of modification, of combining the old with the new, and of revitalizing the old where it is relevant and feasible, and of reshaping the new to suit the requirements of the islands."

"As the working arm of the largest gathering of Pacific Island leaders, the Pacific Islands Development Program has helped to ensure that research undertaken in the region for the benefit of our people receives the orientation and will yield data that is of value to our people and their leaders," he added.

Prime Minister Hawke was greeted by enthusiastic applause when he emphasized his government's priorities in maintaining Australia's fundamental link across the Pacific Ocean with the United States and the strengthening of its role as a partner and participant in the region, stating that "Australia's future lies with the countries of Asia and the Pacific". "The region will be a vital force determining the future of world affairs," Mr. Hawke said, "and the East-West Center has a real role to play in this unfolding story. We in Australia look to the Center to continue to focus the attention of decision makers in America on our part of the world."

His observations were complementary to those of another world leader, then Prime Minister of Japan Zenko Suzuki, who spoke of the "spirit of Pacific solidarity" during an address at the East-West Center in June, 1982.

The Center, as a meeting place for research and ideas from throughout the region, was the vision of the late Governor of Hawaii John A. Burns and President Lyndon B. Johnson. "To this Center," President Johnson said, "we shall bring the wise men of the west and invite the wise men of the east. From them we shall hope that many generations of young scholars will learn this wisdom of two worlds united here and to use that wisdom for the purposes and ends of mankind's highest aspirations for peace, justice and freedom."

In 1960, the U.S. Congress established the East-West Center with the mandate to "promote better relations and understanding among the nations of Asia, the Pacific and the United States through cooperative study, training, and research."

The Center's Board of Governors includes members from the United States, Asia and the Pacific. The major source of funding is an annual U.S. Congressional appropriation. Additional financial contributions have come from 21 Asian and Pacific governments and from numerous private foundations, public agencies, corporations and individuals.

In the last 23 years, more than 30,000 men and women, 20,000 from Asia and the Pacific and 10,000 from the United States, have participated in the programs of the Center's five multidisciplinary institutes — Communication, Culture Learning, Environment and Policy, Population and Resource Systems — as well as its Pacific Islands Development Program, Centerwide Programs and Open Grants.

Last year alone, nearly 2,000 participants joined with the Center's international staff in studying and conducting intensive research on a wide range of issues such as maritime jurisdiction disputes in the South China Sea, electric power systems in Asia, impact of expanding and migrating populations, satellite communication, regional economic competition of Asia's newly industrializing countries, and cultural tensions which arise from modernization.

Today, the Center's 30,000 alumni, working around the world, form a dynamic network of cooperation and mutual assistance which transcends national boundaries and promises a brighter future for the Asian/Pacific region.

Ancient Hawaiian hulas, performed by the Men and Women of Waimapuna, provided additional color and excitement to the function.
I t gives me great pleasure to be here with you in Hawaii and in particular to be able to attend this dinner of the international Board of Governors. I am most grateful to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Char, and the President of the Center, Dr. Li, for their thoughtfulness in having organized this most useful occasion to let me meet and talk with you.

I should also like to say how very pleased I am that Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Prime Minister of Fiji and a member of the Board of Governors, is able to be here as one of the hosts this evening.

Australia and Fiji share a close partnership in the South Pacific region and it is opportune that we should see each other tonight since I shall be privileged to host the South Pacific Forum later this year in Canberra.

I should first like to take this opportunity to express the new Australian Government's unchanged and firm support for the East-West Center. We support wholeheartedly the principle on which the East-West Center was founded. That is, to promote better relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific and the United States.

The Center has been in the vanguard of opinion-forming in the United States about the Asian-Pacific region. We in Australia equally believe in the importance of the future of the Pacific Basin as one of the most dynamic regions of the globe, and the importance to Australia of her place in that region. The partnership and cooperation of the countries of this region will be a vital force determining the future of world affairs.

"Australia's future lies with the countries of Asia and the Pacific."

The East-West Center has a real role to play in this unfolding story, and we in Australia look to the Center to continue to focus the attention of decision makers in America on our part of the world.

One significant aspect of the East-West Center's work to which I would like to draw attention is its cooperative nature. The East-West Center's programs are not a one-way flow of ideas, expertise or finance from one country to another. Rather, the Center pursues a cooperative approach, through the technique of joint participation in its research teams by experts from both the developed and developing countries in the Asian/Pacific region. Specialists from all countries are thus able to work together as partners.

Australia has been pleased to be able to help this aspect of the Center's work by funding third-country scholarships under which students from countries in the region other than Australia itself are able to participate in East-West Center programs.

I would like to take a few moments to single out the excellent work being done under the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), a recent innovation in the East-West Center's schedule of operations. It was due in good measure to a personal initiative by Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara that this program was commenced three years ago.

The Pacific Islands Development Program responded to a feeling by leaders of Pacific Island countries and territories that they wished to set their own priorities for development studies and training. The Pacific Islands Development Program is unique in that its Standing Committee, composed of the chief executives of governments of a number of Pacific Island countries, meets twice yearly to offer policy guidance on the running of the Program.

This type of intimate interest and involvement in the program on the part of the most senior political
leaders of the region is in itself an extremely valuable resource and one which I am sure the East-West Center fully appreciates. It gives me great pleasure to state that the Australian Government supports the Pacific Islands Development Program, both in spirit and by providing financial contributions.

I am now of course nearing the end of my first official overseas mission as Prime Minister of Australia — a journey which has taken us to Port Moresby, Jakarta, London, Paris, Geneva, Washington, New York and Toronto.

"The Center has been in the vanguard of opinion-forming in the United States about the Asian-Pacific region."

You will, I trust, not find it inappropriate that I should refer briefly to the general purposes of my mission and the extent to which those purposes have been fulfilled for the advancement of Australia's national interests. It is the more appropriate for me to do that here, inasmuch as, even in places as distant as Paris and Geneva, I took the opportunity to place in the forefront of my private discussions and public statements, concerns and interests — political and economic — of profound importance to our region and our peoples.

At all times, but especially in the United States, I sought to emphasize Australia's place as a partner and neighbor in the future and destiny of this great Pacific region.

All such missions by heads of government do, of course, have as a primary objective the establishment of personal contact, and hopefully, rapport and understanding with other leaders.

Obviously, this has particular relevance for the head of a new administration such as mine. But Australia's relationships with all the countries I visited, but especially with Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the United States, are far deeper and enduring than government-to-government relations, or as between administration and administration. For example, the partnership between the United States and Australia, formalized by the ANZUS Treaty, which includes New Zealand, transcends the life or duration of any Australian Government or any American administration.

Its fundamental meaning, purpose and purport is not subject to passing changes in partisan fortunes, because it has never been based on such considerations in Australia or America. Nevertheless, personal contact is always mutually beneficial and so much the better, if that contact results in a clearer appreciation on both sides of the points of view, points of...
difference, and the larger areas of common purpose.
And just as in the approach my government is attempting to bring to the problems of economic management, the process of knowledge-acquiring and knowledge-sharing plays a key part, so, on the wider stage, the first-hand exchange of views and information between heads of government, and a wide range of ministers and senior officials, is clearly valuable.
Second, my purpose was to establish the underlying continuity in the major directions of Australia's international relations under Australia's new government. And, when I say "continuity," I do not mean only — or even mainly — that between my government and its immediate predecessor.
In a number of quite fundamental areas, this essential continuity, whatever differences may have arisen over the years, on specific issues — some of them of great moment at home and abroad — this essential continuity, I say, reaches back years and decades.
For example, the bi-partisanship which exists on Australia's exceptional obligations towards an independent Papua New Guinea, extends back more than a decade to the foundational work of the Whitlam Labor Government. The recognition of the fundamental and over-riding importance of constructive relations with the neighboring giant Indonesia goes back to the days when, in the late forties, the Chifley Labor Government was Indonesia's first significant supporter of her independence.
And, of course, the American-Australian partnership itself was forged forty years ago by the Curtin Labor Government, and successive Australian governments, Labor and Liberal alike, have re-affirmed its primacy with equal firmness.
This is a record of continuity, consistency and national consensus on fundamentals which few nations can excel and, throughout this mission, I have tried to give expression to the clear and overwhelming wish of the Australian people that we should continue on this broad path.
Third, I have taken the opportunity to put Australia's view on a number of specific matters of considerable importance, both privately and publicly. These include not only issues such as East Timor, Cambodia, aid to Indo-China, French nuclear testing in the Pacific, the ANZUS relationship and the joint Australian-U.S.
installations, but more general matters such as developments in our region, arms control and international economic issues.
Equally, I have been able to hear the views of other countries on these issues and those of particular concern to them.

I have been able to listen to what senior administration officials in the United States and leading figures in the business and financial community in New York have to say about the recovery of the U.S. economy and the extent to which it can be sustained, and the broader views on the outlook for the global economic developments for the Australian economy, including the framing of the 1983-84 budget.
And I have put our views on the Australian economy, including policy on foreign investment, to key figures in the business and financial communities in New York and Paris, so as to ensure on their part the maintenance of confidence in our economy when they come to consider investment decisions.
Within this broad framework I might mention some details of the work of the past fortnight.
We reached an agreement with Prime Minister Somare regarding future aid to Papua New Guinea — an important agreement for that
country's economic and social stability. In Jakarta I conveyed to the Indonesian authorities at the highest levels our concern that an act of self-determination had not taken place in East Timor; the importance that we attached to progress on family reunions and the establishment of an Australian Associated Press office; the significance of the visit to East Timor next month of an Australian Parliamentary delegation to our decision on a vote in the United Nations on the incorporation of East Timor.

Since I left Jakarta I have received from our Embassy there some positive indications of progress in these areas on the part of the Indonesian authorities. At the same time I stressed to the Indonesian authorities the importance we attach to having constructive relations with Indonesia, both because of its geographical proximity and its role in the region.

In London, I had useful talks with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr. Ramphal, about the future of CHOGRM.

Then in Paris I conveyed to the French authorities at the highest levels our total opposition to French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, and reached an understanding that there would not be further shipments of uranium from Australia until at least October 1984 so as to provide a "window" for further discussions on this issue.

I took the opportunity during this journey to express Australia's support for the proposal for a South Pacific nuclear free zone, and I believe that the raising of this matter will assist the discussion on the proposal which I anticipate will take place at the South Pacific Forum in August.

In both Indonesia and France, as well as the United States, I was encouraged by the interest shown and support expressed for what we are attempting to do in regard to Cambodia.

In the United States I had preliminary discussions with United States officials on a number of defense-related issues, including the ANZUS review and greater involvement in decisions relating to joint installations, as well as scope for improved Australian access to offset and transfer of technology.

I found much interest and support for the approach that our government is taking in our efforts to resolve the problems of the Australian economy.

In turn, I believe that the projections and insights I have received about developments in the world and American economies, will enable us to improve our approach to the solution of our economic problems.

As I said earlier, I took every appropriate opportunity to speak publicly and privately on matters of interest and concern to Australia as part of the Pacific region, and therefore of interest and concern to all other nation-members of this region.

Especially in Washington and New York, I stressed the importance to the economies of the nations of the South Pacific of a liberal international trade and payments regime and the importance of maintaining realistic levels of concessional aid to the developing countries of the region and the world.

In making these points, and on the other issues I raised of concern to our region, I must emphasize that I did not presume to act in any way as spokesman for the region, or on behalf of any nation except Australia. That is not my role and it is not Australia's vision of its own role.

We are not in the business of any pretensions about leadership in the region. We are about genuine partnership on the basis of equality.

But, if as a good neighbor and equal partner in the Pacific, my work on behalf of Australia should prove to be of value for our friends, neighbors and partners, I should return home well content.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I could not conclude without expressing the appreciation of the Australian Government to the Government of the United States of America which is, of course, the principal source of funding for the East-West Center. In the past the United States Government has paid around 80 percent of the Center's expenditure and I believe this is an indication of the importance which this and previous administrations, and members of Congress, have attached to the Center as a most useful window for America on the Asian/Pacific world.

My own government's priorities lie both in maintaining Australia's fundamental link across the Pacific Ocean with the United States and in strengthening our role as a partner and participant in the Asian/Pacific region.

But, as I have said, these major objectives represent the clear desires and determination of the Australian people — a course now pursued continuously and consistently for forty years.

Australia's future lies with the countries of Asia and the Pacific. It is a matter of satisfaction to us that the United States is committed to maintaining a high level of constructive involvement with the Asian/Pacific region and it is in this context that we believe the East-West Center has a significant role to play as a focus for contact and friendship among peoples throughout the Pacific Basin.

There is, of course, one simple word which expresses our ultimate goal for the nations and peoples of this region — and beyond. It is the name of the Ocean itself — the Pacific. We will be serving our people well if — through the work of this Center, through the building of cooperation among our governments and nations, through long and close associations like ANZUS, through organizations like the South Pacific Forum, and even perhaps, in some slight measure, through the results of my own mission, as they may emerge in the months and years to come — we will be serving our people well indeed, if we can contribute to making that noble name of the world's largest ocean a reality, so that this Pacific Ocean stands for a Pacific world — a region at peace, a world at peace.
Revitalizing the Old, Reshaping the New

The Right Honorable
Ratu Sir Kamisese K.T. Mara,
KBE, GCMG, Prime Minister of Fiji

The Prime Minister of Australia, President Li, members of the Board of the East-West Center, ladies and gentlemen:

I rise to add a few words of appreciation to those already expressed so eloquently by the President of the East-West Center. I am pleased to be able to do so, and especially when the Prime Minister of Australia, my neighbor in the South-West Pacific, is in our midst tonight.

And I might add that it is interesting to observe that two leaders from the same side of the Pacific Ocean have had to visit the East-West Center in order to have an opportunity to meet, though this has been more by accident than by design. It is a further testimony to the continuing role of the East-West Center in building and strengthening bridges of understanding between peoples and nations of diverse cultural backgrounds.

We in the islands appreciate this role greatly. It helps to explain why island leaders gathered in large numbers here in March, 1980, as part of the celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the East-West Center. But to us it was more than a celebration: It was an attempt to review the path we have pursued in our endeavor to keep up with the modern world. It gave us an opportunity to think together and explore ideas for the advancement and welfare of our people. Indeed, the Pacific Islands Conference was essentially a search for and the development of ideals that are in keeping with our identity and self-respect as independent island nations.

"...two leaders from the same side of the Pacific Ocean have had to visit the East-West Center in order to have an opportunity to meet..."

Of course, this does not mean a return to the old ways, for that would be both impossible and undesirable. But it does mean a conscious process of adjustment, of modification, of combining the old with the new, and of revitalizing the old where it is relevant and feasible, and of reshaping the new to suit the requirements of the islands.

After the conference and with the help of the East-West Center and a number of aid donor agencies, the Pacific Islands Development Program was established to provide the essential secretariat for the conference and pursue those projects which were agreed to be researched. As in any organization, and especially for new ones, funding is a particular constraint. However, it was heartwarming to find that assistance came readily; it showed there was widespread support for our desire to achieve a quality of life based on what existed in each island society and through the Pacific way. We acknowledge the generous assistance we have received from your government Mr. Prime Minister, and of others, and the East-West Center because it helped us to place the secretariat on a sound footing. We hope that this example and initiative will be followed by others in a way that will help us to sustain the Pacific Islands Development Program in the years ahead.

We look forward to the continuing assistance of those of our neighbors and friends who are willing to help us find a meaningful and rewarding place in this highly competitive world.

As new and small island states trying to march with the times, it can be said that doing things in concert might provide for us a sure way for progress. This is one reason why the Pacific Island Conference sanctioned as of top priority an assessment of the
modes and mechanisms of regional cooperation existing in our island world. This project has clarified for us the realities of regional cooperation, its costs and benefits.

The Standing Committee of the Conference has been meeting regularly. With the aid of modern communication technology, some of our meetings have been conducted through satellite which has enabled our colleagues in Port Moresby, Suva, the Cook Islands, Pago Pago and Honolulu, to maintain contact and follow up projects.

Natural disasters, cyclones in particular, are a feature of the climatic pattern of the Pacific Islands. The project on this subject has aimed to document the action taken by the people of the region to help them cope with cyclones and the stresses arising from them, with emphasis on the measures that could assist in their speedy rehabilitation and recovery.

The first step is a compilation of the impact of such disasters to provide basic data so that our people can be better prepared to meet such disasters. Of course we are grateful for the assistance we have received in the past to help our people get back on their feet, and we are confident that we have been worthy recipients of aid in this regard.

The search for alternative sources of energy is a continuing process that must inevitably involve many organizations. Our activities in this regard involve also the support of the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation, the UNDP, the EEC and the East-West Center.

The role of the Pacific Islands Development Program is to keep a watch on the progress of the project which is designed to give decision makers information and methodological tools for analyzing domestic energy problems and assist in the formulation of energy policy alternatives which can be considered within a framework of regional cooperation.

A number of other projects are underway while others are being planned. Amongst those that are nearing completion, are the aquaculture survey in the region and the policy issues relating to nuclear waste disposal in the Pacific Ocean; these projects are due for completion.

Heads of State, Prime Minister Hawke of Australia (center) and Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese K.T. Mara of Fiji (left) listen intently to Herbert C. Cornuelle, member of the EWC Board of Governors.

"As new and small island states trying to march with the times, it can be said that doing things in concert might provide for us a sure way for progress."

in two months time. As small island states, we in the Pacific have always been concerned with the need to devise administrative systems suited to our requirements. Modern demands and our social and cultural backgrounds require that we formulate systems of administration that are in keeping with the needs of our people. This project should be completed in two years time.

Other projects that are being planned at the moment include the role of multinational corporations in the islands of the Pacific and the promotion of indigenous business ventures.

Those of us who have been associated with the Pacific Islands Development Program know that it has contributed to the articulation of the needs and aspirations of the people of the islands. As the working arm of the largest gathering of Pacific Island leaders, it has helped to ensure that research undertaken in the region for the benefit of our people, receives the sort of orientation that will yield data that is of value to our people and their leaders.

We do realize that we are part of the modern world and that we cannot opt out of the century in which we live. Like Milton Friedman said in his book Free to Choose, we are aware that when the early settlers arrived in Plymouth in 1620, "...they did not find streets paved with gold, they did not find an easy life. They did find freedom and an opportunity to make the most of their talents. Through hard work, ingenuity, thrift and luck, most of them succeeded in realizing enough of their hopes and dreams..." Though our resources are limited, we are prepared to play our part. We are confident that as we interpret the information collected through the PIDP projects, and as we articulate our needs and aspirations, we can continue to look to our more affluent neighbors and friends for the necessary support that will ensure that as island nations we can be masters of our destiny. That is what independence is all about.
Forging Partnerships for Peace

Dr. Victor Hao Li
President of the East-West Center

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the East-West Center, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Center. The visit of Prime Minister Hawke which coincides with the meeting of our Board of Governors makes this an especially important evening for us.

Standing here, I'm struck that this gathering of heads of state — with our guest of honor Mr. Hawke and our Governor Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara — together with scholars, journalists, and business leaders from the Asian/Pacific region is precisely the kind of meeting and exchange envisioned by our late Governor John A. Burns and President Lyndon B. Johnson when they successfully sought federal legislation to establish the East-West Center in 1960.

Twenty-two years ago at ground breaking ceremonies here at the site of this very building, President Johnson set forth this noble goal: "To this Center we shall bring the wise men of the west and invite the wise men of the east. From them we shall hope that many generations of young scholars will learn this wisdom of the two worlds united here and to use that wisdom for the purposes and ends of mankind's highest aspirations for peace, justice and freedom."

This was a big dream not only for the Center but for our nation. It was clearly the case then that our country's interests and orientation were directed to Western Europe. Historically, our social, political, and economic ties were forged with Atlantic nations. It's only been within the last decade that we in America have witnessed a growing awareness and understanding of the Pacific Basin.

We "believers" who are here this evening, know that...in sheer numbers, more than half the world lives in the Asian/Pacific region.

...in economic terms, Asia has surpassed Europe as America's largest overseas trading partner. In the last ten years alone, the value of cargo moving across the Pacific has increased more than tenfold.

"Australia has become a Pacific power, a nation with strong diplomatic and economic ties with other Asian/Pacific countries."

...in political terms, Pacific nations are witnessing the emergence of regional interests and the growth of increasingly important regional organizations.

...and culturally, the Asian/Pacific region contains the richest collection of human development and diversity in the world.

Like the United States, Australia's historical ties extend to Western Europe. Years ago, some, in fact, described Australia as a European country in Asia. But Australia has made the turn to Asia and the Pacific much more sharply and quickly than we have. Australian exports, which two decades ago were 45 percent to Europe and 14 percent to Asia, are now 51 percent to Asia. Another example — at a recent meeting here we learned that Australia today surpasses the United States in Japanese language study.

Australia has become a Pacific power, a nation with strong diplomatic and economic ties with other Asian/Pacific countries.

Australia's active participation in the Center's programs is in itself testament to its deep interest in the Pacific region. Since the Center was established in 1960, Australia has been a key partner in our cooperative programs. Today, more than 900 Australian men and women — graduate students, senior scholars,
government officials, journalists and business leaders — have studied and worked here with their colleagues from around the Pacific.

In addition to sharing its rich human resources with us, Australia has been a very generous supporter of our programs.

In fact, the Australian government was the first in the region to make annual financial contributions after the Center’s incorporation in 1975. Along with other governments and institutions in the region, it has helped support our Pacific Islands Development Program and our training programs for third country participants. In the last eight years, Australia’s contributions have steadily increased. Today, it ranks with Japan, Korea and Thailand as the top four Asian/Pacific governments, providing financial assistance to the Center. We are grateful for Australia’s financial

and intellectual support, not only because it has allowed us to expand our programs. Even more important, I believe, is Australia’s demonstration of true partnership with the United States and other Asian/Pacific governments to strengthen this institution’s programs, fostering mutual understanding of issues critical to the future of the region.

Working together across cultural and national boundaries, we have started a quiet, positive revolution in this region which spans more than half the globe. It is a revolution of peace, helping to bring about needed change through genuinely cooperative and mutually beneficial means. And throughout the years, Australia has been a vital partner in this effort.

Mr. Hawke, your presence with us this evening underscores the personal friendship the East-West Center has enjoyed with your country. The very strength of this institution emanates from the support, guidance and counsel we have received from participating governments like yours.

This evening, we are indeed proud to have you and your lovely wife here with us, together with your colleagues in government who have been traveling with you on your state visit to many capitals.
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