

AUSTRALIA - INDONESIA \*TIMOR GAP : JOINT STATEMENT

Following is the text of the Joint Statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, and the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Alatas, following their talks in Jakarta on 25 October.

- 1 The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia took note of the result of the Ninth Meeting of Senior Officials of Indonesia and Australia on the delimitation of continental shelf boundaries between the two countries, held in Jakarta on 3-4 September 1988. The two Ministers studied carefully the recommendation of the Meeting on the establishment of a Zone of Cooperation in the area between the Indonesian Province of East Timor and Northern Australia (the "Timor Gap") for cooperation in petroleum exploration and exploitation, and the basic principles to govern the Zone, to be elaborated in a comprehensive Agreement. The recommended Zone of Cooperation will constitute a provisional arrangement pending agreement on the delimitation of a permanent continental shelf boundary.
2. The two Ministers hereby announce their Governments' endorsement to the recommendation of the Meeting and agreed that appropriate steps will be taken for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive Agreement on the Zone of Cooperation. The two Ministers expressed their desire that such an agreement should be concluded between the two countries within one year.
- 3 The Zone of Cooperation will be delineated in the northern side by a simplified bathymetric axis line, in the southern side by the 200 nautical mile line measured from the Indonesian archipelagic baselines, and in the eastern side and western side by equidistance lines. The establishment of the Zone and its delineation will not prejudice the respective positions of the two Governments on a permanent continental shelf delimitation in the area and will not in any way be construed as affecting the respective sovereign rights claimed by each side in the Zone of Cooperation.

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\*[This and the following documents were provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra].

**TIMOR GAP : JOINT STATEMENT (CONT)**

4. The Zone of Cooperation will comprise three component areas, namely Areas A, B and C as in the attached sketch map. A joint development regime will apply in Area A and there will be established a Ministerial Council and a Joint Authority. In Area B the relevant Australian legal regime will apply, and in Area C the relevant Indonesian legal regime will apply, subject to a regime of sharing in tax returns applicable in each of the two areas and a process of notification and consultation between the two Governments through the Joint Authority on petroleum exploration and development activities.
5. The two Ministers believe that the establishment of the Zone of Cooperation will further strengthen the relations between the two countries.

**ZONE OF CO-OPERATION**