



## Remarks With Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith

### Secretary Condoleezza Rice

Kings Park  
Perth, Australia  
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#### [Video Excerpt](#)

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** All right. Well, thanks. Everyone all right? Okay. Well, thanks very much, ladies and gentlemen. I'd just like to make some opening remarks and introduce the Secretary of State. I understand the ground rules are three per side, so I'll do my best to emcee.

Firstly, can I again, Madame Secretary, officially welcome you to Australia, to Perth, and in the course of our day, to my electorate. This is, in my view, a very significant visit. It reflects the warmth and the enduring nature of the Australia-U.S. alliance. And it's an alliance which has served us well for over 60 years. And the alliance is enduring. Governments in Australia come and go, administrations in the United States come and go; the alliance continues to be part of the indispensable strategic security and defense arrangements between our two nations.

Of course, in addition to that, and the very many number of important regional and international issues that the Secretary and I have discussed, both in our time coming down from Singapore and the course of the day, I've endeavored to show the Secretary some of the attractions of Perth. Last night at the University of Western Australia, the Secretary was able to meet a range of Perth attributes -- academic, intellectual, research, religious, sporting and commercial -- in particular, our minerals and petroleum resources industry.

This morning, we started off with coffee in Mount Lawley, at the suburb that my family have lived in since 1967, and I was pleased to be able to introduce my mum and dad and my son and, subsequently, my daughter, to the Secretary. We then went to Mercedes College in Perth, and I think there it's true to say that the power of education and the power of equality can open up anything for any young woman or, indeed, for any young man, Australian, American, of whatever nationality. And I think, Secretary, at Mercedes, people were very much impressed by your commitment to education, what education can do in terms of opportunity, but also your commitment to treating people equally, irrespective of race, color, religion.

We've just come from Swanbourne Barracks with the SAS, where we paid our respects to the contribution that the SAS and Australian Defence and combat services generally make. We also met families from servicemen who have died in Afghanistan or in the Middle East in the course of the service for their country. And I was very pleased that the Secretary was able to speak to the families and pay her respects and regards to them. As you've seen, we've just laid a wreath at the State War Memorial, again, to recognize the enduring nature of the relationship, and also the joint contribution and sacrifice that Australian servicemen and women have made over a very long period of time.

So Madame Secretary, I'm very pleased to have been able to both invite and welcome you to Western Australia. Our bilateral conversations in Perth and en route from Singapore have, again, been very productive, just as our earlier ones in Washington and Kyoto and Paris have been. So we're very pleased to see you. I've certainly enjoyed the night and the day, so I hope you have. And I'd like very much to you -- very much for you to make some opening remarks to the Australian and United States media, and then we'll take their questions.

**SECRETARY RICE:** Well, thank you very much, Stephen. This has been a wonderful trip. You said when we first met that I had to come to Western Australia to really see a part of Australia that was very special, and you couldn't have been more right. And Perth is a beautiful city. I've loved the opportunity to be at the University of Western Australia, a place that has a lot of links to California. I'm told that there are only -- that Herbert Hoover was here; of course, he's a Stanford alum, George Schultz, my good friend, the only other Secretary of State, also a Californian, and now, to be here.

And it was great to be with the folks there last night in the broad community from Perth. It was really wonderful to see your parents and your son and to be with Jane as well. Your parents are so proud of you and, well, they should be. But it's always great to be with people and their families, because you get a little glimpse of who they are. And I loved being there. I also loved the flat white that I enjoyed, and now I know something else that I can order and order with a kind of aplomb that says I know Australia.

I appreciated very much the opportunity to be at Mercedes College with the fine young women there, including your daughter, and of course, to pay respects to the families of the fallen and to talk with the wonderful SAS soldiers. I said there, and I truly do believe, that the United States and Australia share a wonderful and productive and effective alliance. We clearly have, in many, many engagements, many wars, as we've just seen, we've defended freedom together. But the reason that we've defended freedom together is we share much more. We share values and we share a fierce determination to defend our way of life and to defend our freedom. And there is no better friend for the United States than Australia.

We -- of course, in speaking to the families, I want to note to the people of Australia that the sacrifice that they've endured, of course, can never fully be repaid. There are fathers and husbands and sons who will never come back, and nothing that I can say will change that. But I hope that it is well understood that the sacrifice is appreciated, because nothing of value is ever won without sacrifice. And that is the message that I wanted to give to the families and that I give to the Australian people.

I've also appreciated the opportunity we've had to go through the complete bilateral and global agenda, both in our conversations with our colleagues at the Asian Regional Forum, but also in our bilateral discussions here. And we've covered the full range of issues in our more than two- and-a-half-hour bilateral on the plane. But I do have to reveal a little secret. We did spend a little bit of the time with Stephen trying to explain cricket to me, and I trying to explain American football to him. As long as there are no tests, I think that sooner or later, I'd like to try out my knowledge, and I hope he'll have a chance to try out his knowledge.

In short, Stephen, thank you for the invitation to this really beautiful place, this very special part of Australia. It reminds me of the Western United States, the kind of openness and optimism that is here. Being here on the grounds of this wonderful park, having visited the wonderful memorial, it's a great opportunity to celebrate what is an extraordinary relationship between the United States and Australia, and our friendship as well.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Well, thanks very much, Madame Secretary. For the record, I should say that the bilateral lasted for three hours; one hour

on regional and international matters, and hour and a quarter on cricket, and three quarters of an hour on American football.

**SECRETARY RICE:** (Laughter.)

Now, in accordance with the usual customs, the first question to the United States media.

**QUESTION:** Thank you. I'm Matt Lee from AP.

**SECRETARY RICE:** Right.

**QUESTION:** Madame Secretary, the issue of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay has been some – has been a source of worldwide anger and frustration. You may have noticed here there were some small protests and at your next stop, in Auckland, there's a group of students who have offered a \$5,000 reward for anyone who can successfully perform a citizen's arrest on you for violations of the Geneva Convention.

I'm wondering (a), if you're aware of this and what you make of it; and, more importantly (b), how are the plans going to close down Guantanamo? Can you commit, can the Administration commit to closing it down by the time President Bush leaves office?

**SECRETARY RICE:** Well, first of all, protest is a part of democratic society, and student protests are particularly a long-honored tradition in democratic society. And I can only say that the United States has done everything that it can to end this war on terror, to live up to our international and our national laws and obligations.

Guantanamo is a detention center that, as the President has said, we would very much like to close. The problem, of course, is that there are dangerous people there who cannot be returned and put among innocent populations. We are hopeful that there will be the beginnings of the bringing to justice, the military tribunals for those people who are there. But let's not forget that a lot of innocent people have died at the hands of terrorists. And we must do everything that we can within our obligations legally and in terms of our treaty obligations to prevent that from ever happening again. And the President is dedicated to that.

We have tried to return people from Guantanamo to their home states if at all possible, but there are some people that we've not be able to do that with. And the one thing that we cannot do is to release people into a population that is innocent and would be unable to defend itself.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Okay. First question from the Australian side.

**QUESTION:** Dr. Rice, this morning a student asked you if you were keen on becoming President. Have you ruled it out completely?

**SECRETARY RICE:** Yes. (Laughter.) Look, it's – I'm sure it's a great job, President. But I really -- I know what I want to do with my life. And I know the great honor that I've had of serving the United States as its chief diplomat. Look, the United States is an extraordinary country. It's a country that I love very, very deeply. It's a country that I've been proud to represent. It's a country that sometimes has to take difficult decisions, and we're not always popular in taking those decisions. But I hope that people know that we've always taken them in hopes of defending freedom, defending values, and making the world a better place.

And in representing my country, I've been proud to be able to say that our country's come an awfully long way. You know, I was born into segregated Birmingham, Alabama. There was actually no guarantee that my father could vote when I was born in 1954 in Alabama. And that I stand here as Secretary of State, and as I said to Stephen, in 12 years, we will not have had a white male Secretary of State. It says something very special about the United States.

And so it's a great country to represent abroad. And when I've done that – and I've got a sprint ahead of me still until I'm done, but when I am, I look forward to returning to my home. I look forward to returning to working on the many issues that concern me, but especially -- one of the reasons Stephen and I have become, I think, good friends is he has a great and abiding interest in education, as do I. And since I believe very strongly that great multiethnic societies like the United States or Australia, great multiethnic democracies, have to be certain to provide educational opportunities for their people, have to be certain that it is true that it doesn't matter where you came from; it matters where you're going, that circumstances of birth are not, in fact, a hindrance to who you will be. That's what I'd like to do, is to go back and make sure that I do my part to secure that again for America.

And so I have enormous admiration for people who do run for office, like my friend here, and we certainly put them through their paces, as an electorate should. But I know where I'm going and who I am on that score.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Second question from the United States media.

**QUESTION:** Sue Fleming from Reuters. Australia has pulled its combat forces out of Iraq. Secretary Rice, would you like to see more of those forces move to Afghanistan, where there's a great need for more forces? And for both of you, do you think that Pakistan is doing a good enough job in the border areas?

**SECRETARY RICE:** First of all, let me just say how much we appreciate the contribution of Australia's forces. And we were able, because of Australia's openness and cooperation, I think, to achieve the withdrawal of Australian forces from Iraq that had been a part of the promise of the incoming Australian Government. And we were able to do it in a way that provided safety and consistency for the forces remaining on the ground.

And now in Afghanistan, we're fighting together in some difficult places, like Uruzgan Province, where many of the Australian forces are. And the contribution is tremendously appreciated. Look, we all have to look at what we can do. And I know that on the reconstruction and civil side, which is, after all, a part of the counterterrorism, counterinsurgency struggle as well, Australia is doing even more.

But what we need to do – it relates, Sue, to the second part of your question – is to look hard at how the Taliban is regrouping, why the Taliban is fighting in the way that they are now. They generally are taken on and defeated pretty handily when they come in actual military formations. But they certainly are – there's an uptick in the terrorism, not just against forces, but against the Afghan people. And in that regard, everybody needs to do more, but Pakistan does need to do more. That border, we understand that it's difficult, we understand that the Northwest Frontier area is difficult. But militants cannot be allowed to organize there and to plan there and to engage across the border. And so yes, more needs to be done.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Thank you. Just to add to those remarks, firstly, in the case of Iraq, as you know, that was an election commitment, and

we implemented that. That was done with the full cooperation of the United States Administration, also with the Iraqi Government and also other partners in Iraq, in particular, the British. And as a logistical exercise, that was a very, very successful exercise.

And I was in Iraq recently. In the course of being in Iraq, I announced a substantial increase in respect of Australia's contribution on the civil reconstruction side. In addition to securing peace and stability in troubled areas, we also have to give those nations the chance to grow their capacity. And so our increased assistance in Iraq goes to building state institutions, increasing capacity.

So far as Afghanistan is concerned, we have nearly a thousand troops in Afghanistan, about a thousand and 60-odd. We are the largest non-NATO contributor. We are in Uruzgan Province in the south, where the fighting is often at its most difficult and its most dangerous. And this morning, we had the pleasure of meeting people who had been in that theatre. We make a substantial contribution. We've made it clear that we don't see any increase in the combat or military or defense capability that we have in Afghanistan, but as well, in recent times, I've also announced, when I was in Afghanistan, a further substantial Australian contribution for nation-building and capacity-building.

We are very grateful for the role that our forces play in Afghanistan. And at Swanbourne Barracks, I said to some of the regiment there that they do really need to understand that the work they do in difficult and dangerous circumstances is very genuinely appreciated by our friends and allies. I also made the point that – and in the vernacular, that the work they do in conjunction with our friends and allies, whether it's combat or a peacekeeping role, helps give Foreign Ministers of Australia street cred when they walk in the door. That is unambiguously the case. And it's a very important role that they play for international peace and security, but an important role they play on behalf of their nation.

When it comes to Pakistan, I have made the point, as I did to the Pakistan representatives in Singapore in the course of the ASEAN Regional Forum, that we are very concerned about the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area. We don't believe that that can be regarded simply as a bilateral matter between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is an issue which has regional and international community consequences. There is no doubt that the current international hotbed of terrorism is in that area, is in the Pakistan border area in Afghanistan.

One thing we know about modern terrorism: it is mobile and moves very quickly, either north and west to Europe, or south and east to Asia. And Australia has already been on the receiving end and adverse consequences of terrorist activity in Southeast Asia. So we have raised the border issue with the Pakistan Government, as we have with our ally, the United States, and other friends in Afghanistan, in particular, the British.

But this is an area where both the regional community and the international community needs to do more. We do need to engage Pakistan more in a dialogue and we do need, in my view, to be rendering assistance to Pakistan at a time which is very, very difficult for them.

Second question, Australian media.

**QUESTION:** Dr. Rice, Western Australia is a state with significant uranium reserves. Has your agreements or talks with India and Australia's role and what part we could play come up in your talks? Do you think there's a role for us there?

**SECRETARY RICE:** Well, we have talked about the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Deal. I'll ask Stephen to speak to the Australian position, but the -- we've made very clear that we believe that this is an agreement that serves the interests of the U.S.-Indian strategic relationship. It serves the interests of India in terms of its needs for energy that is not hydrocarbons-based. They want a civil nuclear program and this is a way for them to have one.

And frankly, it serves the interests of the nonproliferation regime. India is not a party to the NPT, but the regime, the broader regime, is one in which even non-NPT states need to take certain obligations in terms of proliferation, and India has a good record in terms of proliferation. And the fact that Mohamed ElBaradei, the Director General of the IAEA, has been supportive of this deal, I think, supports the notion that this is good for the international nonproliferation regime.

I know that there will be consultations coming up soon in the IAEA Board of Governors, and then in the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Australia, of course, will participate in those. And I don't expect that Australia has yet to make a decision. That's not what's being asked, but I know that I've had -- I found a very open hearing and listener as we've put forward the case for this deal and -- as the Indians have, as well.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Well, there are two separate issues. First is the export of Australian uranium. The government has a longstanding party policy position which is we don't export uranium to a country that is not a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. And I've made that clear to Indian officials and the Indian Government pretty much from day one of the new Australian Government's term in office.

The India-U.S. nuclear civil arrangement is a separate matter, and a matter, indeed, that my memory is, Secretary, that when we first met in Washington, we discussed it there, as we have regularly, and as I have with Indian officials and Minister Mukherjee, recently, and as the Prime Minister did, Prime Minister Rudd, with Prime Minister Singh in the margins of the G-8 meeting recently.

Our position on the U.S.-India civil nuclear arrangement is that if and when the arrangement emerged from, effectively, the Indian parliament to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the International Atomic Energy Agency, then we would put our mind to the detail of the agreement. The vote of confidence in the Indian Prime Minister and the Indian Government in the course of this week now makes it almost certain that the arrangement will proceed to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

The fact that our policy position prevents us from exporting uranium to India does not prevent us from joining a consensus to support the Civil-Nuclear Deal. And I've indicated both to the Indian Minister of State, who was in Singapore, and to the Secretary of State, that we are now looking in detail at the arrangement and agreement, looking at the views of other players in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Atomic Energy Agency itself. And we're doing that with a positive and constructive frame of mind. We don't proceed on the basis that our policy position on the export of uranium prohibits or prevents us from supporting that arrangement, and so we're looking at it in a positive and constructive manner. And we're also, as I've made clear consistently to the United States and India, when we do that assessment, looking very carefully at the strategic importance that both the United States and India place on this arrangement.

I think it's third strike. You're out over here.

**QUESTION:** Yes. I'm Lachlan Carmichael from AFP news agency. Madame Secretary, you've been telling us -- Madame Secretary, you've been telling us about progress made privately between the Israelis and Palestinians towards a draft peace agreement. Next week, there will be the trilateral in Washington. Will you be able, finally, to give some public details of the progress they've been making, and will you be applying pressure to (inaudible) both sides into that deal you really want before you leave office -- or before President Bush leaves office?

**SECRETARY RICE:** Well, the first answer is no. We won't be providing details of what goes on in the trilateral. They are -- the Israelis and the Palestinians have their first serious peace process in seven years, and they are discussing very sensitive and difficult issues. I would remind that the most effective negotiations they probably ever had were Oslo, and no one even knew they were negotiating. And they -- so I think they're really rather wise to negotiate seriously, to work with each other, to see if they can overcome differences without having a daily accounting of how well they're doing or how badly or who's up or who's down. And that's what they want to avoid. And I'm going to stick scrupulously to the same view.

I think the United States can help them to see where there are points of convergence, and that's what I generally do in the trilaterals. I think I can also -- because I stay in very close contact with all of my colleagues in the international community, including Australia, I think I can represent to them some of the things that the international community might be willing to do to help them in getting to a deal or in making the deal work.

Now, there is still time for them to, in accordance with Annapolis, reach agreement by the end of the year. And we'll keep working toward that goal. But the most important thing right now is to take note of how very seriously they are negotiating, to note that there was not, even last year, a peace process at this time, and to recognize that since this President came into office, the notion of two states living side by side in peace and security has just become kind of common wisdom; we all say it. Well, in fact, in 2001, that was not the position either of the Likud government of Ariel Sharon, or of much of the international community.

And so the President has, in stating clearly American policy for a two-state solution, in helping to get through the extraordinary difficult years of 2001, 2002, 2003, the second Intifada, in helping to get through the withdrawal from Gaza, the Lebanon War, and then launching Annapolis, I think has laid a firm foundation on which these two parties can finally end their conflict. The work now is to keep pressing ahead, but pressing ahead in a way that preserves the workability of this process. And that really means preserving the confidentiality of their discussions.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Okay, last one. We've had the two opening (inaudible) from the Australian side. Now, it's first change.

**QUESTION:** Dr. Rice, if we could just lighten up as we wrap up here. President Bush is coming to the end of his term. Over the years, satirists have had a bit of fun with him. In Australia, he may be seen as a larrikin. What's he like as a boss?

**SECRETARY RICE:** President Bush, what's he like as a boss?

**QUESTION:** Yeah.

**SECRETARY RICE:** Well, he is somebody who really proceeds from a kind of deep sense of principle, and he sometimes finds things outrageous. He finds -- I mean, he's outraged by certain things. And I'll tell you something that he finds very difficult to deal with. He finds it difficult when he sees people who live in tyranny. I know that that's considered somewhat old fashioned, to believe that no man, woman or child should have to live in tyranny, but as somebody who himself is free, he's offended by the continuance of dictatorships in this world.

Now, I think that has united us and united this Administration. I know that there's sometimes a misreading of that to suggest that we're somehow naïve, that on our watch, all dictatorships were going to go away, we were going to end tyranny for all time. That's not the point. Because everyone understands that the ending of tyranny is a long, long, long term process that takes generations and generations. But if somebody doesn't speak up for the principle that it's simply wrong for men and women to live in the absence of freedom, then it's never going to happen.

And you know, I'm a firm believer that it's all right to be a little bit on the side of too optimistic and too idealistic, rather than too cynical and too pessimistic about human beings and what they can achieve. Because if you look back over history, whether it was the founding of the United States of America itself, which probably never should have come into being, given the great struggles against the British Empire or our own Civil War, which almost did end the American experiment; to the collapse of a country with 30,000 nuclear weapons and 5 million men under arms peacefully without a shot, in one night the hammer and sickle came down, the tricolor went up; did we think any of that possible? Well, those things that seemed impossible now seem, in retrospect, inevitable.

So I think the President is someone who, if he has to err, he'll err on the side of idealism and optimism. And you know, when you have to get up and go to work every day post-9/11, where for us, quite frankly, every day is September 12<sup>th</sup>, it's an awfully good thing to work for somebody and for the President of the United States who really is, at heart, an idealist and an optimist.

Thank you.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Thanks very much.

**SECRETARY RICE:** Thank you.

**FOREIGN MINISTER SMITH:** Thanks, ladies and gentlemen.  
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 [BACK TO TOP](#)