



TRANSKRIPSI
JOINT PRESS-CONFERENCE
MENTERI LUAR NEGERI REPUBLIK INDONESIA, DR. N. HASSAN WIRAJUDA
DAN
MENTERI LUAR NEGERI REPUBLIK SERBIA, VUK JEREMIC

Jakarta, 27 Maret 2008

[Awal transkripsi]

[Awal *joint press-conference*]

Menlu RI: [inaudible] The relations between the peoples of Indonesia and the peoples of Serbia are not new. In fact, I shared with Foreign Minister Jeremic, that when I was at high school, I was very familiar with the close relationship of our late President Soekarno with his counterpart, the late Presiden Tito. And it was widely known to students that President Soekarno gave President Tito cockatoo bird that was well trained and every morning said, "Good morning, Mr. Tito". That is the light part of the relations between our former leaders, between the peoples of Indonesia and the peoples of the former Republic of Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia.

Indonesia and Yugoslavia were in the front row in the Non-Aligned Movement. In fact, we were the founders. Of course, we follow the event in the Balkan region, [inaudible] concerns, in particular in the unfortunate events that occur in the area in the past 15-20 years. But as dynamic as we are, Indonesia immediately recognized and established relations with the Republic of Serbia and we have established our embassy in Beograd at the level of Ambassador.

We enjoy close political relations, but it remains a challenge for us to translate this close political relations into a productive economic trade, investment, as well as defense, and people-to-people contact. We agree at the bilateral meetings, first, to establish a joint bilateral commission, so we just signed an MoU, establishing bilateral commission between Indonesia and Serbia, we discussed the possibility within reach for us to negotiate and conclude the Paris Agreement that facilitate the bilateral relations between our two countries.

Likewise, we discussed an actual issues of Kosovo, in particular, the period leading to the declaration of independence of Kosovo in February, and how Serbia as well as Indonesia -- as part of the international community -- to deal with it. Indonesia strongly upheld the principle of respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of UN member states. But at the same time, the recognition of the defense that took place in the region in the past 15 years, and for that matter we strongly fall the solution of the Kosovo problems by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiation. This is the message that Indonesia conveyed to Serbia when the President of the Republic of Serbia sent his Special Envoy to Jakarta last year, a similar message that we also conveyed to the European Union and others.

We welcome the determination on the part of the Government of Serbia to pursue the part of the dialogue and negotiations to solve the problems of Kosovo. But likewise, to ask the idea which soon would be the proposal of Kosovo to table a resolution at the UN General Assembly to request the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the

question of legality of the UDI (Unilateral Declaration of Independence) is as fair [inaudible] proposal. So we agree to have a close consultation in what way Indonesia could play a constructive flow in that process.

We also exchanged views on the development in our respective regions. At the pleasure to brief Foreign Minister Jeremic on the process of transforming ASEAN from a rather loose association into an ASEAN Community to be attained by 2012, of course, we have briefed also Foreign Minister Jeremic on the issue of concern to ASEAN, also to the international community, namely on the issue of Myanmar.

I benefit from the inside information that Foreign Minister Jeremic sat with me and the delegations, not only on Kosovo problems, but also on the process of countries in the Balkan, including the Republic of Serbia, to join the European Unions in the coming years. I believe, not in the distant future from now -- and this but not only the offers the Serbian Republic, but also other countries in the region -- joining the European base, and for that matter, enjoying peace stability and prosperity for working together within the European space, but likewise, for Indonesia to use Serbia as a gate the European market.

I also appeal to my colleague, Minister Jeremic, when they think about Indonesia, and for that matter, promotion of economic cooperation, trade and investment with Indonesia, putting Indonesia in the context of larger market of ASEAN under 17 billions, but in the eventuality of East Asia Free Trade area, I believe would be in place in 7 years from now.

So, once again, Minister Jeremic, you're most welcome and pleased to have you here on your visit in Indonesia, and thank you for your kind invitation for me to visit the Republic of Serbia, of course we will communicate through diplomatic channel on the mutually agreeable convenient date for that visit. Thank you very much.

Menlu Serbia: Thank you very much, minister. Thank you for your kind words and thanks for the hospitality and I'm truly honoured to be part of the history of relationship between our two nations. This is indeed the first time that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia is visiting Indonesia. It's a ground-breaking event but the history of the relationship of our two peoples dates back to history and I'm very proud in the position today with His Excellency to further in this relations to play historic role in making sure of our people who had been brought closely together during the days of the Non-Aligned Movement continue with this relationship of closeness and friendship in this fastly changing, fastly turning-world of the 21st century. Today we confirmed of our friendship, today we discussed how to face the future together, today we discussed the range of bilateral issues, as well as the range of issues related to international peace and security and and the future, ways and means of the world.

This was a very successful meeting, in my opinion. We started up by discussing the range of our bilateral issues. We concluded that our political relations are excellent, and that there are absolutely no open questions between our two countries, and we decided to move [inaudible] swiftly together in making sure that the extension of our economic relations as the result to this fantastic political base.

So, we signed the agreement that is going to make up [inaudible] declaration of our comprehensive commission, Indonesia and Serbia, we are going to go through the list of bilateral agreements, bilateral contract that has to be signed between our two nations in order to facilitate all aspects to comprehensions, aspects like academy, culture, education, exchanges and basically to make sure to reinvigorate the efforts to forging [inaudible] our relations with a wider repercussion as the Minister rightly pointed out for the regional organization to which we respectively belong. So, when Indonesia thinks of Serbia, Indonesia should [inaudible] think of Europe and when Serbia thinks of Indonesia, I'm happy to say that Serbia thinks of the wider East Asian community of nations, as Minister and I discussed during our meeting.

So, we are talking about great potential for economic, investment, we're talking about great potential for the expansion of trade, we're talking about vast [inaudible] on cultural and educational cooperation and so on.

We spent a lot of time talking about international issues related to international peace and security. Indonesia, as a member of the Security Council, Indonesia is one of the most influential countries of many important international organizations: Organisation of Islamic Conference, Non Aligned Movement and many other countries. Indonesia is an important international player. Indonesia is involved in a vast array of issues related to maintaining international peace and security. In line with international law, and first and foremost is the UN Charter.

So, in the context of the preservation of the international law, and in the context of upholding the principles entailed in the UN Charter, we discussed the threat to regional peace and security as well as the global peace and security emanating out of the international declaration of independence that the provisional authorities in our [inaudible] problems of Kosovo declared on Februari 17th earlier this year.

The case of unilaterally declaring of independence and the case of Kosovo is nothing but an ethnically moderated succession from an internationally recognized state in deviance of the Security Council and in deviance of the text of the Security Council resolutions regulating [inaudible].

It is setting a very dangerous precedent for international relations and Serbia is adamant that the only way, in which the solution in which this problem can be solved without repercussion to international peace stability is by means of peaceful negotiations waiting to a compromised solution, endorsed by the Security Council.

We highly appreciate the principle of position of Indonesia, that Indonesia has held in the Security Council that our conflict must be resolved by peaceful negotiation, that our conflict must be resolved in a way that parties agree in the end of the day to the solution, and that the Security Council and the United Nations remain the critical forum of the international community in which legitimization of outcome of the political processes are to be taking place.

Once again I say that we are deeply appreciative of this principle position of the Republic of Indonesia.

I'm also very happy to say that Indonesia is doing very positively the idea that of asking of the legal opinion of the International Court of Justice on the issues of Kosovo, Serbia is planning on putting it forward to the United Nations' General Assembly in September. And I think it is important to have a legal opinion from the International Court of Justice, because this is the legal body of the United Nations, give them legal opinion, and then countries can decide to make their national decisions to their national government of the country and the world over can decide to make their decision on how they are going to approach their decision. Serbia has no doubt. In the case of Serbia, the Unilateral Declaration of Independence was done in a way that fundamentally violated the international law. But we are happy to work with all the countries that would like to seek for the legal opinion of the International Court of Justice in corroborating this claim. So, I think it's important this legal opinion is obtained and I think it's going to be much easier for all the countries, for all national governments of the world over to decide how to act in this very complicated affair.

But before I draw my remark to a close, I'd like to point out one important thing. [inaudible] interest to this great country. Kosovo is not a religious issue. This is not a religious problem. I know that there is a lot of confusion when it comes to this. Because majority of Albanians who inhabited Kosovo, who live in Kosovo, not the Albanian nation in general, because the

Albanian nation in general, you've got many religions in Kosovo in general. Predominantly of those majority who live in Kosovo happen to be Moslem. Majority of the citizens of Serbia who live in the part of Serbia outside Kosovo, I mean, Serbia minus Kosovo, they happen to be Christian. But this is not a religious issue. This is purely ethno-political issue. This is an issue of an attempt of ethnically-motivated succession, not the religious issue.

Serbia is home to a lot of Moslems and citizens of Serbia, be they Moslems, be they Christians, they're supporting Serbia's authoritative territorial integrity. So, if this is just an issue of ethnic Albanians in Serbia who are seeking independence, unfortunately in a unilateral way, it is not the issue of the Moslems in Serbia seeking independence, as I say, there are a lot of Moslems in Serbia, they are loyal citizens of Serbia, they enjoy all the rights of all the citizens. Serbia is a democracy, Serbia is a place where there is a fully implemented rule of law and the rights of the citizens are equal, regardless of their faith. So, the citizens of Serbia, both Christian and Islamic faith, they support the territorial integrity and sovereignty of their country.

So, once again, I'd like to conclude with this remark, this is not a religious issue. We are talking about politics, we are talking about ethnic conflict, we are talking about international law, we are talking about upholding the principles and the value enshrined in the UN Charter.

This was a good day for me in Indonesia so far. I really enjoyed our conversation. I will proceed this afternoon to have meetings in your Parliament. I look forward to these meetings, too, and I look forward to your visit to Serbia, Minister. It has been long overdue and we look forward to hosting you in Belgrade.

Wartawan: My name is Ahmad Fathonl from Reuters News Agency. There is a report in the [inaudible] media that EU official was due to visit Serbia today. The report says that he will give an ultimatum to Serbia whether to choose isolation or integration. What is the road that Serbia is taking in relations to issue of the integration with the European Union? Thank you.

Menlu Serbia: Thank you very much for your question. I'm not aware of this visit. I would've been probably aware as Minister for Foreign Affairs. I'm not really sure if this visit is taking place or not. But one thing is for sure (that) the future of the South East Europe is in the European Union and the government of Serbia is going to continue pushing [inaudible] for the integration and the entire Western Balkans in the South East Europe into the European Union. This is all the way in which we can stabilize our part of the world in which we can achieve progress. And the level of progress, the level of academy, that our parliament and the rest of the continent [inaudible] fall behind of the integration because of the unfortunate development in the 1990s that took place in our part of the world. We are adamant that we want to catch up and that we want to become full members of the European Union. This applies for Serbia, this applies to the other countries in the Western Balkans.

And when one talked about the ultimatum, thinking of, I mean, ultimatums, they don't work that easily and the European Union is not a kind of institution that is giving ultimatums to anybody. This was part of the European history, not part of the European present, and certainly not a part of the European future.

But I know that there are a lot of people who is saying Serbia has to choose between its European future or Kosovo, and if Serbia chooses Kosovo then Serbia loses both. That is not a decent proposal. Serbia can not choose between Kosovo and its European future. Serbia is like every other country, member states of the organization of the United Nations, adamant that it wants to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in a peaceful way in line with international law. At the same time, Serbia has not given up its European future. Serbia is going to continue moving towards Europe together with the rest of the Western Balkan.

And I know that a lot of people are saying what happened if Europe asks Serbia to recognize the illegal and illegitimately declared independence of Kosovo in order to get to the European Union. And I have to say that we don't expect that question to be asked, because not all member states of the European Union are supporting the illegally and illegitimately declared independence of Kosovo. We're talking about a number of countries that have said that they are not going to recognize Kosovo. I'm talking about the member states of the European Union. So if the members of the [inaudible] not ask to recognize this, I don't understand how can it [inaudible] as a total asked and aspirant member to do something along those lines. As you know, in the European Union, the forum and policy are arrived at by means of consensus. And there is no consensus in the European Union when it comes to Kosovo.

Wartawan: Thank you. Zaki from the Associated Press. On Tuesday, the Kosovo government has rejected a Serbian proposal to divide Kosovo into two, for Kosovo minority and Serbian minority. Will the Serbian Government move forward to push for the proposal or will you make amendment? Thank you.

Menlu Serbia: [Recording interrupted] Serbia has never proposed a partition of Serbia. So partition of Serbia is not going to be proposed by the Serbian government, regardless of what partition lines would go. So, no partition of Kosovo, no partition of our territory, including Kosovo whatsoever. This is not what we have proposed.

We have proposed that under the current circumstances, we find an ad-interim agreement between the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the citizens of Serbia who are refusing to acknowledge or to recognize this illegal act of unilaterally declaring independence. So we're just talking about how to bridge the situation in which [inaudible] we're talking to anybody, down there in Kosovo there are the threats to security in Kosovo, there are issues of illegitimacy of international presence in Kosovo and so on and so forth.

We went to find a way to make sure that there is peace and stability even under this difficult circumstances that are cost by the unilateral illegal declaration of independence. This is what the Serbia government in their faith has proposed in order to calm the situation down, the provisional breakaway authorities in Pristina, like they have rejected every single proposal come and out of Belgrade on the general principle anytime in any place, regardless of the content. They refused that too. So it did not come as a surprise to me. But we are going to continue talking about it with the United Nations, because they are supposed to be the counter-party to this proposal which supposed to be United Nations under any circumstances anyhow.

Wartawan: I'm also asking about Kosovo. I wonder whether we are, Indonesia, as a large Moslem majority, I wonder whether you asked using our non-governmental Moslem organization to [inaudible] Albanian Moslem to solve the conflict?

Pak Hassan, apakah Menteri Luar Negeri Serbia ada pendekatan *people-to-people* karena kita adalah warga Muslim dan banyak tokoh-tokoh Muslim seperti Muhammadiyah atau Nahdatul Ulama untuk mendekati warga Albania yang muslim? Apakah itu dibicarakan, Pak? Terima kasih.

Menlu RI: As a matter of fact, we did not discuss the possibility of the government of Kosovo or to have discussion with various Islamic groups in Indonesia to help facilitate the solution, the peaceful resolution of the Kosovo problem. But I just wish to share with you that the OIC Summit, Summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference held recently in Kosovo. [inaudible] on Kosovo which expressed sympathy with the plight of the people of Kosovo, but on the question of Kosovo declaring its independence, the organisation simply leave it to its member states. And so far, out of 57 members of Organisation of Islamic Conference, it was Albania, Turkey, I believe from 3 or 4 OIC members that recognize the independence of Kosovo.

As it was said by Foreign Minister of Serbia just now, the question is not so much of question of religion, but more of ethno political question in which the principle of respecting territorial integrity and national sovereignty of states, members of the United Nations, are very much related.

Menlu Serbia: Thank you very much indeed for your questions. Thanks a lot.

[Akhir *joint press-conference*]

[Akhir transkripsi]



Jakarta, 31 Maret 2008