

Today in History

4 21 January



1944 NZ and Australia sign the Canberra Pact

In the wake of Japan's expansion across the Pacific Ocean during the Second World War, the New Zealand and Australian governments saw the value of working together more closely to enhance their joint influence. The Australia-New Zealand Agreement ('Canberra Pact') was an undertaking by both countries to co-operate on international matters, especially in the Pacific. In particular they agreed to:

- · a framework for consultation on matters of common interest
- assert their right to be involved in setting peace terms and in the creation of any postwar international organisation
- the creation of a regional defence zone stretching across the Pacific from Australia to Western Samoa and the Cook Islands
- support the principle of trusteeship for the remaining Pacific island colonies
- · set up a regional commission to advance economic, political and social development in the 'South Seas'.

The Canberra Pact was received unenthusiastically by the British and with hostility by the United States. Even its promise of closer cooperation between Australia and New Zealand was largely unfulfilled. But the two countries were closely involved in the creation of the United Nations; and a South Pacific Commission was set up in 1947.

Internal links

New treaties and alliances - New Zealand Forces in Asia 1948-72 constitutional timeline

Political and

This Week in History



28 February 1945 **Kiwi** soldier faces Nazi firing

squad



1 March 1901

Skippers Bridge opened



2 March 1865

Missionary Carl Volkner killed at Opotiki



3 March 1960

Barry Crump's novel A good keen man published

4 March 1855

Legendary sheep rustler James Mackenzie caught



5 March 1830

Outbreak of the Girls' War at Kororareka

Debut

Orchestra

6 March 1947 performance of

NZ Symphony

9

Timeline Sec

Month Calendar Today in History

What happ

See historic ex day of the yea date below. Wi birthday?

DD/N

Visit the

Kiwi of the



Sidney Holland

Holland became PM in 1949. A year later he abolished the Legislative Council, and in 1951, after winning the Waterfront Dispute, he increased his majority in a snap election.

more

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