



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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DECLASSIFIED • E.O. 12958 SEC. 2.6  
WITH PORTIONS EXEMPTED  
E.O. 12958 SEC. 1.5

MR 07-1545 State Rev 3/12/04  
DOD Ltr 5/3/07  
Dept of Air Force Ltr 5/3/07  
BY HR NARA DATE 1/23/08

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford  
 Amb. Nicholas F. Parkinson, Australian Ambassador  
 Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for  
 National Security Affairs  
 Philip Habib, Assistant Secretary of State for East  
 Asian and Pacific Affairs  
 Stuart W. Rockwell, Deputy Chief of Protocol

DATE & TIME: Tuesday - March 16, 1976  
 2:00 - 2:14 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Presentation of Credentials

[The press enters to take photographs. There is discussion of when Parkinson got here and the President's experience in the South Pacific during World War II. The press departs.]

Parkinson: Thank you very much for receiving me so soon after my arrival.

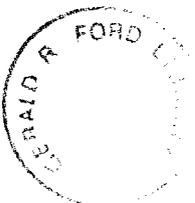
President: We are delighted to receive you. Please give my regards to the Prime Minister. We very much appreciate the very positive statements he has made about the United States and associated matters.

Parkinson: The Prime Minister asked me to give you a personal message. He says that you are the bulwark of the free world and we look to you to preserve us all from those who would do us ill. He is sorry that he couldn't get here last summer. He would like very much to come to visit but he thinks in light of everything the first half of 1977 would be best.

President: That sounds fine. Meanwhile I hope our two governments can continue our close cooperation. We intend to maintain a forceful presence in the area.

CLASSIFIED BY Brent Scowcroft  
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EXEMPTION CATEGORY S(B)(3)  
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Parkinson: Thank you. The last part of the Prime Minister's message is that we consider ourselves a staunch ally and when we disagree at times we hope to do so quietly and in private.

President: I thank you for that assurance and I am sure our relationship will thrive.



Parkinson: I visited them only a short time ago. They are doing very well and our two forces cooperate very closely.

President: Are the bases in the boondocks?

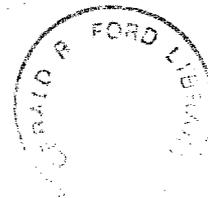
Parkinson: Very much so. One is at the Woomera missile range and the other at  Some live in the town there and the single ones live on the base.

We are well aware of the importance of the bases, and the Prime Minister spoke of their significance and is pleased to be contributing that way.

President: Please give him my best. I look forward to seeing him in 1977 if I am still around.

Parkinson: I am a novice but it looks good to me.

President: I think things are looking up.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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CREDENTIALS CEREMONY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR

Tuesday, March 16, 1976  
2:00 p. m. (10 minutes)  
The Oval Office

From: Brent Scowcroft

**DECLASSIFIED**  
E.O. 12958 SEC. 1.6

MR 07-15 #5 State PW 3/12/04  
DOD Ltr 5/3/07  
Mat of Air Force Ltr 5/3/07  
BY H/L NARA DATE 1/23/08

I. PURPOSE

To accept the credentials of the appointed Ambassador from Australia, Nicholas Fancourt Parkinson.

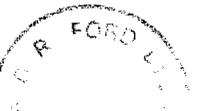
II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: Ambassador Parkinson succeeds Sir Patrick Shaw, who died in office last December. We have arranged an early appointment for him to present his credentials so that he may call on the Vice President prior to the latter's departure on his trip abroad, which includes an official visit to Australia.

Ambassador Parkinson, 50, was born in England and was educated in Australia receiving a B. A. degree from the University of Sydney. After service in the Royal Australian Air Force in World War II, Parkinson joined the Australian Department of External Affairs in 1951. He has served in Lebanon, Egypt, Hong Kong, the USSR, New Zealand, Malaysia, and in the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Joint Intelligence Organization in Canberra. From 1970 to 1974 he was Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore. Before coming to Washington as Ambassador, he was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Bilateral Relations

Our bilateral relations with Australia are excellent. In the early 1970s, some divergencies in policy began to appear, particularly over Indochina; given the changes in



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U. S. policy toward the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, Australia believed it had more room for maneuver and independent initiatives. Differences reached their high point between December 1972 and mid-1974 under the Labor Party Government that E. Gough Whitlam headed. Whitlam publicly criticized some U. S. policies, and created some uncertainty concerning the tenure of our major defense-related installations in Australia. Relations improved during the last year of the Whitlam Government. The Fraser Government, which took office in December 1975 after a landslide election victory, has publicly supported U. S. foreign policy and defense interests. Most of the remaining bilateral problems seem on their way toward resolution.

#### Significant Programs and Issues

ANZUS, our defense pact with Australia, which dates from 1951, plays a fundamental role in our security posture in the Pacific. We recently conducted a naval exercise with our ANZUS partners. We have three major defense-related installations in Australia, and several important NASA installations. These are not an issue in our relations at this time. We would like to resume visits (suspended since 1971) to Australian ports by our nuclear powered warships, and would like to locate an OMEGA Navigation Station in Australia; the Fraser Government has indicated that it will approve these projects. We are basically satisfied with Australia's defense cooperation in other areas and with Australia's present policies in Asia.

We expect to get Australia's support on most multilateral political and economic issues. Australia is also the site of an estimated \$6 billion in U. S. investment. We export about \$2 billion a year to Australia, and import about \$1 billion. There is a possibility of some friction on trade if Australia continues to impose restrictions on imports. Australia would like to export more meat to the U. S., but recognizes that the U. S. is the only major export market now open to Australian meat, and that our voluntary restraint system preserves Australia's share of the market.



- B. Participants: Deputy Chief of Protocol, Stuart W. Rockwell, will present the Ambassador to you. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs Philip Habib and I will also be present.
- C. Press Arrangements: A routine press announcement will be made. There will be a photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. We continue to attach great importance to our close relations with Australia, and to the broad strategic relationship that the ANZUS alliance symbolizes.
2. We have noted with appreciation the statements of Prime Minister Fraser, Foreign Minister Peacock, and Defense Minister Killen regarding the global role of the United States, our activities in the Indian Ocean, and visits by nuclear-powered warships.
3. We can assure Australia of our determination to continue the principal directions of U.S. foreign policy, and to support our friends and allies.
4. We believe that Australia has an important role to play in regional security and in assisting us in maintaining the global balance.
5. Australian political and economic support for the non-communist states of Southeast Asia, as well as military cooperation with them, contributes to their self-confidence and improves the prospects for development and security in that area.
6. We appreciate the extensive celebrations of the U. S. Bicentennial being planned in Australia.
7. The Vice President is looking forward to his visit to Australia later this month.



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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . National security restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Note

DESCRIPTION . . . . . Brent Scowcroft's handwritten notes  
from Ford, Parkinson meeting

CREATION DATE . . . . . 03/16/1976

VOLUME . . . . . 2 pages

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 031400831

COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . National Security Adviser. Memoranda of  
Conversations

BOX NUMBER . . . . . 18

FOLDER TITLE . . . . . March 16, 1976 - Ford, Australian  
Ambassador Nicholas F. Parkinson

DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 07/23/2004

WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . GG