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10-4-74

Press Announcement Immediately Following the President's Meeting  
with the Australian Prime Minister

The President met with Australian Prime Minister Whitlam at eleven o'clock this morning for approximately one hour. Prime Minister Whitlam is in Washington on an unofficial visit, having participated in the current session of the United Nations General Assembly immediately before coming here. This was the President's first meeting with the Prime Minister. They had a wide-ranging exchange of views on matters of common concern as partners in the ANZUS alliance, including a review of the world situation and the situation in Asia, the questions of world-wide food and resource availability, and the global energy situation. ~~The meeting was the latest in the continuing series between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Australia.~~ Other participants in the meeting were the Foreign Minister of Australia, Mr. Donald Willessee, the Australian Ambassador to the United States, Sir Patrick Shaw, <sup>MR. ALAN RENOUF, DEPT. OF FOR AFFAIRS</sup> Secretary of State Kissinger, and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Mr. Philip Habib. Prime Minister Whitlam met with Secretary Kissinger for about 45 minutes immediately before he saw the President.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:               RON NESSEN  
FROM:                            LES JANKA  
SUBJECT:                         Morning Press Items

**ITEMS TO BE ANNOUNCED OR VOLUNTEERED**

1. **Press Statement for use before the President's Meeting with the Australian Prime Minister**

The President will meet with the Prime Minister of Australia, Gough (GOFF) Whitlam, at 11 o'clock this morning. Prime Minister Whitlam is making an unofficial visit to Washington, having attended the current session of the United Nations General Assembly earlier this week. The meeting will be the first that the President has had with Prime Minister Whitlam. It will provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on global and regional problems of concern to the United States and Australia, which are partners in the ANZUS alliance. Prime Minister Whitlam will have met with Secretary Kissinger immediately before his discussion with the President. **(Readout for use following the meeting is attached.)**

FYI: The ANZUS alliance is based on the security treaty signed in 1951 by the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

Prime Minister Whitlam last visited the United States in July 1973, when he made an unofficial visit to Washington and met with President Nixon. End FYI.

5/11/75  
Press Follow-Up for the President's Meeting with Australian

Prime Minister Whitlam

Q: Where do the U. S. and Australia stand on the foreign policy differences they have developed between them since Prime Minister Whitlam's Labor Government took office in late 1972?

A: Australia and the U. S. have always recognized differences between two sovereign allies and normally will exist. The worth of the alliance between our two countries has been demonstrated in the useful and healthy way we have been able to carry on a dialogue about the foreign policy differences which do exist between us. No one need doubt the strength of the basic relationship between the U. S. and Australia.

Q: Is the U. S. concerned that the Australian Government has moved too quickly to recognize the new governments in Saigon and Phnom Penh?

A: This is basically a matter for the Australian Government to decide. Australia is aware of our views on this matter. The U. S. itself intends to wait until the composition and character of these new governments are clearer before deciding what we will do.

Q: Has the U. S. urged Australia to accept more than the minimal number of Vietnamese refugees which Australia has accepted so far?

A: The U. S. has consulted closely with the Australian Government on this issue, as it has consulted closely with other governments in

the region on this matter. It is up to each nation to decide finally how many refugees it can accept. We hope, of course, that in light of the humanitarian considerations involved Australia and others will be as forthcoming as possible.

Q: Could you comment on the current criticism in Australia levelled at Prime Minister Whitlam over his alleged uneven-handed approach to Saigon and Hanoi just before Saigon fell?

A: This is an Australian internal political matter, and I don't think it appropriate for me to comment on it.

Q: What are U.S. views on Prime Minister Whitlam's goal of having a nuclear free zone in the Indian Ocean?

A: The general U.S. position on nuclear free zones is well known. (For details, the question should be referred to State.)

Q: In the past few years there have been a number of calls in Australia for the removal of the U.S. strategic defense installations in Australia. Where does this matter stand?

A: The U.S. and Australian Governments have consulted closely on this matter. We understand each other's positions, and there is general agreement between the two governments on the value of U.S. defense installations in Australia.

29 July 1976

US-AUSTRALIAN BEEF IMPORTS

Q: The joint communique mentions that further progress in the trading relationship would be to the advantage of each country. Does this mean they discussed the beef import issue? Does this statement refer specifically to the beef issue, has it been resolved?

A: Both countries are in agreement to work cooperatively to make progress on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva. On bilateral trade issues, the objective is to resolve them in a constructive way. The communique does not refer specifically to the beef imports issue. We have a long tradition of working with Australia in a cooperative relationship in dealing with the issue of meat imports. [Refer specific questions on this issue to State].

Q: Did the President and Fraser discuss the beef import issue?

A: As the statement makes clear, the entire US-Australian trade relationship was discussed. The beef issue was included in that discussion.

[FYI ONLY: There are two aspects to the US-Australian beef issue. The first is the overall issue of a quota on Australian meat imports which is solved by a voluntary US-Australian agreement. The second concerns a small amount of Australian beef which is transshipped through Puerto Rico and gets into the US without being subject to the voluntary agreement.]

29 July 1976

Q & A for US- Australian Joint Statement

Q: What is the purpose of the joint statement?

A: This is the Prime Minister's first visit to the U.S. since assuming office. Both sides considered it useful to issue a statement outlining the discussions between the Prime Minister and the President.

Q: Did they agree on the nature of the Soviet threat?

A: There was a basic agreement between the two leaders on international security issues.

Q: Was there any discussion of Prime Minister Fraser's proposal for an informal pact between the US, Australia, Japan and China?

A: I understand the Australian Government has denied that Prime Minister Fraser ever made such a proposal. The President and the Prime Minister discussed the East Asian Security and political situation and agreed that good relations between all of the countries of the region was essential

GUIDANCE ON WHITLAM

AUSTRALIA

I can't give you any specifics yet. I can say that the President would be pleased to meet with Prime Minister Whitlam at any time. No specific arrangements have yet been made for a meeting in the near future. When they are, we will announce them.



WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

Australian Prime Minister to Call on President

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Honorable E. Gough Whitlam, will call on President Gerald R. Ford at the White House on May 7, 1975. Prime Minister Whitlam will be passing through Washington following the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference at Kingston, Jamaica.

The President looks forward to this opportunity to <sup>visit</sup> ~~visit with~~ Prime Minister Whitlam, with whom he first met in October, 1974.

Australia is a nation with which the United States has extremely close and friendly ties.

This will be Prime Minister Whitlam's third visit to the United States since he became head of the Australian Government in late 1972.

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

Q: What is the significance of the Fraser visit?

A: This is Mr. Fraser's first visit to Washington since he became Prime Minister in December, 1975. This visit is part of a long standing pattern of close consultations between Australian and American leaders, reflecting the intimate ties between the two countries.

Q: Who else will Fraser see?

A: The Prime Minister will meet with the Vice President, with Secretary Kissinger (who will also give a lunch in his honor), with Secretary Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and with Congressional leaders.

Q: Is the U. S. annoyed with Fraser because of what he told Chinese Premier Hua about the inability of the U. S. to execute its foreign policies, because of differences between the Congress and the Executive? (A transcript of the Fraser-Hua meeting was inadvertently made available to correspondents in Peking.)

A: No.

Q: Are the U. S. and Australia going to step up their military activity in the Indian Ocean to counter the Soviet Union?

A: We enjoy close defense cooperation with our ANZUS ally Australia. However, we have no plans at this time to increase the level of our military activity in the Indian Ocean.



Q: Was there a meeting of minds on the Soviet threat in the Pacific and Indian Oceans?

A: They discussed developments and the overall security situation in the region. The President assured the Prime Minister that the U. S. was determined to maintain strategic equilibrium in the area.

Q: But was there any difference on the extent of the Soviet threat? (FYI: Fraser has pictured the Soviet threat in rather extreme terms. His position is a matter of controversy in Australia.)

A: There was no fundamental difference on Pacific or Indian Ocean security matters.

Q: Did they discuss cooperation between Australia, the U. S., China, and Japan? (FYI: An Australian news report claimed that Fraser had proposed to the Chinese an informal pact between the four countries. Fraser has publicly denied this interpretation.)

A: The two leaders agreed that good relations between China and both our countries was important for international peace. (If asked about Fraser's alleged proposal to China for cooperation against the Soviets) I understand the Australian Government has denied this interpretation.

Q: Did they discuss the resumption of visits by U. S. nuclear powered warships to Australian ports?

A: No.