

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met with Prime Minister Wallace E. Rowling of New Zealand at 11:00 a.m. today for 70 minutes. Also attending the meeting for New Zealand were Ambassador Lloyd White and Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs H. H. Francis. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Assistant Secretary of State Philip Habib, U.S. Ambassador Armistead Selden, and Lt. Gen. Brent D. Scowcroft, represented the United States.

The meeting was the first opportunity the two leaders have had to meet since Prime Minister Rowling took office. It was another in the periodic exchanges between the heads of government of the United States and New Zealand as partners in the ANZUS Alliance. Prime Minister Rowling is visiting Washington informally enroute home from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Jamaica.

The two leaders exchanged views on current foreign policy problems of common concern to the two countries. The President reassured the Prime Minister that the Indochina setback has in no way weakened U.S. resolve to stand by its allies and friends in Asia and elsewhere. The President also stressed the need, in the wake of Indochina, for continued close cooperation between the United States and its allies in Asia and the Pacific.

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