

May 7, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met with Prime Minister Whitlam of Australia at 2:30 PM today for 55 minutes. Also attending the meeting were Special Minister of State Lionel Bowen, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Renouf and Ambassador Patrick Shaw on the Australian side. Secretary Kissinger, Assistant Secretary Habib and Lt. Gen. Scowcroft represented the American side.

The meeting was another in the periodic discussions between the heads of government of the United States and Australia as ANZUS alliance partners. Prime Minister Whitlam and President Ford previously met last October when the Prime Minister visited Washington. He is making an informal visit to Washington on his way back to Canberra following the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Jamaica.

The President and the Prime Minister had a wide-ranging discussion on problems of mutual interest to their two countries. The President reassured the Prime Minister that the reverses in Indochina have in no way weakened United States resolve to stand by its allies and friends in Asia and elsewhere. The President also emphasized 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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