

FOR PRESS :



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MESSAGES TO THE U. S. PRESIDENT AND THE  
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Following is the text of messages sent by the Acting Prime Minister, Mr John McEwen to President Johnson and the incoming President, Mr Richard Nixon :-

To President Johnson

AS YOU LEAVE THE GREAT OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, I CONVEY TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AND OF MYSELF, OUR WARMEST GOOD WISHES FOR THE FUTURE. YOUR FAR-SIGHTED CONCEPTION OF THE INTERESTS OF YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE HAVE EARNED YOU AN ENDURING PLACE IN HISTORY. YOUR CLOSE INTEREST IN, AND THE PERSONAL VISITS YOU HAVE PAID TO, AUSTRALIA HAVE GIVEN YOU A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF ALL AUSTRALIANS.

WITH EVERY WARM REGARD,

J. McEwen, Acting Prime Minister. "

To President Nixon

I OFFER THE SINCERE BEST WISHES OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ON YOUR ASSUMPTION OF THE GREAT AND EXACTING OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT UNDER YOUR WISE LEADERSHIP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO PROSPER AND WORLD PEACE BE FOSTERED. AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS HAVE A VERY WARM REGARD FOR ONE ANOTHER. THE MANY VALUES AND INTERESTS THAT THEY SHARE PROVIDE A FIRM BASIS FOR ESPECIALLY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH I AM SURE WILL EXPAND AND DEEPEN DURING THE PERIOD YOU HOLD OFFICE.

J. McEwen, Acting Prime Minister. "

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CANBERRA,  
19 January 1969