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THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

THE RT HON. WILLIAM McMAHON, M.P.

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I am visiting the United States of America at the invitation of President Nixon at a time of considerable change in world affairs.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and to advance the long-standing friendship between the United States and Australia.

I hope to discuss, in particular, with the President the changes occurring in the Asian and Pacific region and the United States response to these changes.

There is also a number of trade matters which, in my view, might usefully be explored further following the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade at the end of June.

We are moving into a significant era of re-adjustments. If peace is to be assured in our part of the world, the three great powers, the United States, the Soviet Union and China - all nuclear powers - as well as Japan, must reach some accommodation, a new balance in which there is full recognition of, and respect for, the rights and aspirations of their countries.

The place and role of middle and smaller powers in our region have special relevance to such a balance and Australia wishes to do all within its power to advance their interests as well as its own.

I had a most instructive talk with the United States Commander-in-Chief, Pacific (Admiral McCain) in Honolulu on the strategic and security outlook in the Pacific following this week's decision in the United Nations on the entry of the Peoples' Republic of China and the expulsion of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

While in the United States I will have talks with President Nixon on 2 November and with senior members of his Administration in the same week.