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# PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

17 OCTOBER 1978

## ELECTION OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

The Prime Minister has sent the following cable to His Holiness Pope John Paul II:

"Your Holiness,

I would like to express my congratulations on behalf of the Australian Government and people on the occasion of your election as Pope.

You come to this high office at a time when mankind seeks the spiritual and moral strength and leadership which your predecessors have given. Your own experience and background are unique in the modern Papacy, and the world looks forward to the special contribution this may enable you to offer in the great tasks that await you.

You can be assured that our thoughts and best wishes are with you.

We look forward to the continuation of the close and cordial relations which exist between the Holy See and Australia.

Malcolm Fraser."

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