



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

14 March, 1983

I have received messages of congratulations and good wishes from President Reagan, Vice President Bush and Secretary of State George Schultz on the election of my Government.

Each expresses, in the warmest of terms, their intention to work closely with me and my Government.

President Reagan referred to the long tradition of friendship and co-operation between the United States and Australia and to the many close ties between our countries which are the product of our shared interests and values.

I have responded to the President, referring to the fundamental importance of the relationship between our countries and indicating that my Government's approach in this relationship will be that of a constructive ally.

The President expressed the hope that, in order that he and I can put our relationship as friends and allies on a more personal basis, I would be able to visit Washington in the not too distant future.

While my immediate priorities rest with pressing domestic issues and preclude such a visit for the next few months, I hope that it will be possible to take up the President's invitation before too long.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Please accept my warm congratulations on the electoral victory of the Australian Labor Party as well as my best wishes for the success of your Government.

The United States and Australia have a long tradition of friendship and cooperation. This relationship springs from our common heritage and has been reinforced over the years by the innumerable close ties between our peoples. These bonds between us have not been created in a vacuum, but are the product of our shared interests and values. This commonality of interest is reflected in our partnership in the ANZUS Alliance -- a partnership which clearly transcends military and security needs and has come to encompass a broad range of political, economic and cultural interests.

As you shoulder the many burdens of government, I want you to know that, as a friend and ally, I intend to work closely with you, as I did with your predecessor, in pursuit of our many shared goals. In order that we may put this relationship on a more personal basis, I hope that you will be able in the not distant future to visit Washington. If you agree in principle, we can work out mutually convenient dates.

Again, my best wishes to you and your Government on the tasks that lie ahead of you.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ronald Reagan