



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

17 AUGUST 1987

I have sent the following message to President Reagan :

I was delighted to receive your letter informing me and the people of Australia that you had signed legislation authorising a national gift from the United States to Australia to mark our Bicentenary.

The gift, to be used to provide an American Gallery and exhibit at our National Maritime Museum, will commemorate the shared maritime history of our two nations and stand as an enduring symbol of Australian-American friendship.

In 1976 Australians were proud to join in the celebration of your Bicentennial. We are delighted that you and the people of the United States are so wholeheartedly joining in our celebrations in 1988.

On behalf of the people of Australia, I thank you, your Administration and the United States Congress for this national gift. I also pay tribute to your Ambassador Bill Lane for his personal work for this gift.

Hazel and I send our very best wishes to you and Nancy on this occasion.