

FOR PRESS :

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, released in Canberra this afternoon the text of a message which he had received from the President of the United States of America.

The President's message is as follows :-

"Twenty-two years have passed since we fought the decisive battle of the Coral Sea and it is deeply reassuring that the enduring bonds of co-operation and friendship between Australia and America remain firm.

The Coral Sea engagement in which Australian and United States Naval units constituted a single integrated command, serves to remind friend and foe alike of the power of free peoples when they move in concert against aggression.

It is with great pleasure, Mr. Prime Minister, that I extend to the people of Australia on this memorable anniversary the greetings and best wishes of the people of the United States."

BACKGROUND NOTE : The message was brought to Australia by General Hamilton H. Howze, Commanding General Eighth U.S. Army and Commander-in-Chief United Nations Forces in Korea, who is visiting Australia for the Australian American Association's Coral Sea Week Celebrations. General Howze handed it to the Prime Minister at Sydney airport shortly after his arrival this afternoon from Korea and before the Prime Minister left for Canberra.

CANBERRA,
3rd May, 1964.