

MESSAGES FOR NEW PRIME MINISTER

The new Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt continues to receive congratulatory messages from many parts of the world.

Among the latest messages from world leaders are cables and letters from the Prime Ministers of Britain, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, the Soviet Union, Germany, Greece, Israel, Korea, Malta, Japan and Nationalist China and from the Presidents of Pakistan and Malagasy.

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson said :-

"I send you my best wishes on your appointment as Prime Minister of Australia, following Sir Robert Menzies' retirement. I look forward to working closely with you on the many important questions which affect our two countries and I warmly welcome you as a Commonwealth colleague. I am sure that under your leadership Australia and Britain will maintain their strong ties of friendship."

The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Lester Pearson said :-

"My colleagues and I should like to join in congratulating you on your appointment as Prime Minister in the Commonwealth Government to succeed Sir Robert Menzies. From the experience of my colleagues who have had the pleasure of meeting you and working with you in Commonwealth and international bodies, there has developed the fullest confidence that the intimate and warm ties that have existed between our two governments will continue and be strengthened.

I look forward to having the same frank and easy exchanges on mutual problems with you that I and my predecessors have long enjoyed with Sir Robert. I hope we will have an early opportunity of meeting.

Please accept my and my colleagues very warmest best wishes as you assume your new responsibilities."

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. Holyoake, said :-

"My colleagues and I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of your assuming office as Prime Minister and to wish you sincerely every success in the years ahead. I am sure that the warm friendship between our countries will ensure continuing co-operation in all matters of mutual concern. Towards that end I should like you to know that you may always rely on my fullest co-operation. Under your leadership Australia I know will continue to provide that forthright influence in Commonwealth and world affairs which it has had now for many years."

The message from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., Mr. Kosygin, reads :-

"Please, Mr. Prime Minister, accept my congratulations in connection with your appointment to the position of Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia. Permit me to express the hope that relations between the Soviet Union and Australia will develop favourably in the interests of the peoples of our countries and of the cause of peace in our time."

CANBERRA,
27th January, 1966