

FOR PRESS

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Comment by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

I regret Mr. Calwell's statement.

I am sure that most Australians have welcomed as I did the President's friendly message with its warm assurance of continuing American association with us as we face challenges to peace and freedom in Asia and the Pacific.

It is customary - not unusual as Mr. Calwell would suggest - for Heads of Government to send messages of good wishes to other Heads of Government as they are newly-elected or confirmed in office.

Australians will not be unmindful of the fact that the message came from an ally with whom we are actively associated both in military operations and in our common pursuit of the Goals of Freedom as defined at the recent Manila Conference.

The message came from a man who so short a time ago was in Australia as an honoured guest, and reflects his high regard for this country and his personal friendship with me.

CANBERRA,
29th November, 1966