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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Following is the text of a message which was sent by President Johnson to the Frime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John McEwen :-

"In Harold Holt's passing the free world has lost a courageous and far-seeing leader, and I have lost a comrade who was generous with the gift of a warm and wise heart. I found comfort in his friendship and strength in his partnership. He and the people for whom he spoke were always dependable and unshakeable. Those blessings remain as eternal as the sea which has taken him away.

"Please convey to the Australian people my deep sense of personal loss, and my continued total dedication to the goals of Australian-American friendship and world peace for which Harold Holt laboured with such skill and devotion,"

CANBERRA, 19th December, 1967