

FOR PRESS:



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CONGRATULATIONS FOR NEW PRIME MINISTER

The new Prime Minister, Senator Gorton, is receiving congratulatory messages from many parts of the world. Following are texts of some of the messages :-

U.S.A.

"Warmest congratulations to you on assuming the great and challenging office of Prime Minister. It gives me strength and comfort to know under your leadership the same close and mutually satisfactory friendship and relations as between our friends Menzies and Holt will continue between our two countries. Australia has a great role and voice in the free world and I look forward to close communication and frequent discussions on matters of mutual interest. Mrs. Johnson and I send our warmest personal regards and best wishes to you and Mrs Gorton.

Lyndon B. Johnson."

Britain

"I send you my warmest congratulations on your election. Despite the sadness of the occasion, I was very glad to have the opportunity in Melbourne of meeting you and discussing some of the matters of common concern to our two Governments.

"I hope we can continue to keep in our traditional close contact.

"Best wishes and sincere regards.

Harold Wilson."

New Zealand

"My Cabinet colleagues and I send you our congratulations and warmest good wishes as you assume the office of Prime Minister of Australia. The relationship between our two countries is a very special one not only in our own area but abroad, and especially at the present time when we stand together in defence of freedom and democracy in Malaysia and South Viet Nam. We face common problems in respect of the South-East Asian area and the preservation of Commonwealth defence arrangements. Nearer home, we have a common stake in the well-being and development of the peoples of the South-West Pacific. The Free Trade Area Agreement has given the Trans-Tasman relationship a new dimension, and we have every reason for ensuring that it proves beneficial to our two countries. We have both come to accept the necessity for the closest possible consultation and co-operation between us, particularly at the political level, but in many other contexts as well. I am sure that we shall find many occasions for acting together. I personally look forward to working as closely with you as I did with Robert Menzies and Harold Holt.

Keith Holyoake."

India

"My colleagues in the Government of India and I have great pleasure in sending you our warm felicitations and good wishes on your assumption of the high office of the Prime Minister of Australia. I am sure that under your leadership Australia will continue to prosper and that the close and friendly relations between our two countries and people will grow stronger.

Indira Gandhi."

Ambassador Averell Harriman of the U.S.

"Heartiest congratulations on your election as Liberal Party Leader and Prime Minister. I send you my very best wishes in the vast responsibilities which you are now assuming. We all look forward keenly to working with you on matters of common concern. Under your wise and vigorous leadership, I am sure that our relations will continue to grow in mutual confidence in the interests of our two countries.

"With my warm personal regards,

Averell Harriman".

Japan

"I beg to congratulate you on taking office as Leader of the Liberal Party. I heartily wish you both success and prosperity.

Eisaku Sato"

Malaysia

"Please accept the congratulations of my colleagues and I on your election as the Prime Minister of Australia. I look forward to working and co-operating with you in all matters of mutual interest for the benefit of our two countries and wish you every success in all your endeavours.

Tunku Abdul Rahman "

Singapore

"Congratulations on your election to leadership. May the links between us grow strong with you as Prime Minister of Australia. May our common interests be furthered by closer co-operation.

Lee Kuan Yew"

Philippines

"The Filipino people join me in congratulating you on your election as Prime Minister of Australia. We wish you every success in your Administration for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of your great people.

Ferdinand E. Marcos."

Israel

"I know that I am expressing the feelings of all my colleagues in the Cabinet and of every citizen of Israel when I send you this message of very warm and sincere congratulations on your assumption of office as Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia. We all wish you success and we look forward during your term to a continuance and strengthening of the happy relations of friendship and mutual understanding between our two countries.

Pinhas Sapir Acting Prime Minister"

China

"While visiting Bangkok as official guest of Thai Government I learned with great pleasure from today's newspaper of your election to premiership. Please accept my hearty congratulations and best wishes for your success.

C. K. Yen Vice President and Premier"

Italy

"Learning the news of your appointment as Prime Minister of Australia, I wish to convey to you also on behalf of the Italian Government my warmest congratulations together with my very best wishes of success in your new task hoping that the traditional ties of friendship and co-operation between our two countries will be further strengthened.

Aldo Moro , Prime Minister."

CANBERRA,
11 January, 1968