



SECOND VISIT TO US 1969

WASHINGTON

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON
AND PRIME MINISTER GORTON UPON THE PRIME
MINISTER'S DEPARTURE

7 MAY 1969

PRESIDENT NIXON :

Mr Prime Minister, as you leave the White House -- and you are not leaving the country yet, because we hope you will stay here for a few more days -- I want you to know how grateful I am for your returning to the United States after having been here at the time of President Eisenhower's funeral, and for giving us the opportunity to have a very full discussion of the major issues that are not really between us so much as they involve our common interest for peace and security in the Pacific area.

This talk has been most helpful, as far as I am concerned, and as far as the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defence are concerned. We have opened a line of communication which will be used very extensively in the months and years ahead in pursuing our mutual purposes and goals in the world.

I want to say, finally, that as one who has been to your country on two occasions, I hope to visit there again. And, like all Americans, I have a very deep personal feeling, respect, for your country, for your people and for the leadership that you have provided for your people.

We are very proud to have been your ally and friend in great struggles in the past and to be your ally and friend as we deal with the problems of the future.

PRIME MINISTER GORTON

Thank you very much, Mr President.

I feel that the written statement which you have made, and which was agreed between us, gives a clear indication of those matters of common concern which we were able to discuss in such depth.

I think that we have reached an arrangement for close, constant consultation between our two selves on matters which might arise in the future and that this will be a great advantage to both of our countries.

I can only express gratitude to you for the hospitality that you have extended, for the complete openness of your talks with me, and a belief that not only the talks but the underlining of the importance of the ANZUS Treaty to both of our countries which was evolved from the talks are of considerable significance to Australia and to Australia's future and I believe that that, in turn, is of some significance to the United States and to the nations of the Free World as a whole.

Thank you.
