



PRIME MINISTER

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ADMISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE COMMONWEALTH

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon.
William McMahon, CH, MP

I am pleased that Bangladesh has joined the Commonwealth.

Australian support for Bangladesh's membership was given publicly when we recognised Bangladesh in January. I am glad that it has now proved possible to complete successfully the necessary consultations with other members of the Commonwealth.

One immediate result will be that our Ambassador in Dacca will become a High Commissioner and the embassy a High Commission. Bangladesh's first head of mission in Australia, who is expected to reach Canberra shortly, will also carry the title of High Commissioner from the outset.

I have sent a message of congratulations to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The text of my message is as follows :-

"On behalf of the Australian Government, I send you my warmest congratulations on Bangladesh's becoming a member of the Commonwealth. We shall welcome being joined by representatives of Bangladesh at future Commonwealth meetings. We look forward to mutually beneficial co-operation in the many diverse fields of activity for which the Commonwealth association provides."

CANBERRA,
20 April 1972

