

EMBARGO: 10:30 p.m. FRIDAY

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
THE HON. E.G. WHITLAM, Q.C., M.P.,
AT THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION BALL,
SYDNEY, 4 JULY 1975

TWO YEARS AGO - ON 19 JULY 1973 - THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN A MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, INVITED THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE TO JOIN IN COMMEMORATING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY. THE INVITATION SAID IN PART: "THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HOPE THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN USE THE OCCASION TO FOSTER NOT ONLY PERSONAL CONTACTS BUT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF FRUITFUL INTERCHANGE AMONG PEOPLE IN THE REALMS BOTH OF IDEAS AND OF ACTIONS."

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THAT INVITATION WITH THE UTMOST READINESS AND PLEASURE. SO YOUR FUNCTION THIS EVENING COMES ON THE EVE OF WIDER AND MORE ELABORATE CELEBRATIONS PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR. THOSE CELEBRATIONS WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN A NUMBER OF WAYS AND IN A MOMENT I SHALL SAY SOMETHING OF WHAT WE PROPOSE TO DO. THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC WAS ONE OF THOSE WATERSHEDS IN HUMAN HISTORY THAT WILL BE COMMEMORATED BY DEMOCRATS EVERYWHERE - ESPECIALLY IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES - FOR AS LONG AS DEMOCRACY SURVIVES. IN TWO CENTURIES NOTHING HAS DIMINISHED THE POWER AND SPLENDOR OF THE WORDS OF THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WITH ITS NOBLE CONFIRMATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY, ITS UNFORGETTABLE AFFIRMATION OF THE EQUALITY OF ALL MEN AND THEIR RIGHTS TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. THOSE WORDS, SO FAMILIAR, YET FRESH AND IMPERISHABLE, STILL FIRE THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF MEN - AND THERE WAS NEVER A TIME, I SUGGEST, WHEN THEIR MESSAGE WAS MORE RELEVANT, MORE NEEDED, THAT IT IS TODAY.

I HAVE A NUMBER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MAKE THIS EVENING, SO I DO NOT WANT TO EXPATiate FOR LONG ON THE SENTIMENTS AND VALUES THAT UNDERLIE THIS ANNIVERSARY. BEYOND QUESTION, THOSE SENTIMENTS, THOSE VALUES - DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM, THE RULE OF LAW - ARE DEEPLY AND PASSIONATELY HELD BY ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM, AND BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE. BUT THERE IS A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS OCCASION BECAUSE IT WILL BE ONE OF THE LAST TIMES WHEN WE WILL HAVE THE COMPANY - AT LEAST IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY - OF A GREAT AMERICAN, A GREAT DIPLOMATIST, A GREAT FRIEND OF AUSTRALIA, AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN. I PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO HIM. I FIRST MET HIM IN 1964 IN WASHINGTON AT A PRIVATE DINNER; NEXT IN JAKARTA. HE WAS APPOINTED UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA IN 1973, SHORTLY AFTER THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, AT A TIME, I CONFESS, WHEN IT WAS EASY FOR OUR TWO NATIONS, OLD FRIENDS AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, TO MISUNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S PURPOSES. THERE WERE EVEN SOME WHO LABELLED HIM A HATCHET MAN, WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN. I SUPPOSE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ALL OF US MUST USE THE HATCHET. GEORGE WASHINGTON IS SAID TO HAVE DONE SO. BUT I MUST SAY THAT I FOUND HIM UNFAILINGLY AMIABLE, COURTEOUS, UNDERSTANDING, SYMPATHETIC TO AUSTRALIA, AND OF COURSE, AN AMBASSADOR OF THE UTMOST PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND INTELLIGENCE. WE OWE A VERY GREAT DEAL TO MARSHALL GREEN. NO AMERICAN HAS DONE MORE TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TO PLACE THAT FRIENDSHIP ON A NEW BASIS OF MATURITY AND HEALTHY UNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES.

IT IS NOT SO LONG SINCE THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF SILLY AND MISCHIEVOUS TALK IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT A STRAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA. YOU DON'T HEAR THAT TALK ANY MORE, AND IT WAS NEVER REALLY TRUE, EXCEPT IN THE MOST SUPERFICIAL SENSE. OF COURSE IT WAS POSSIBLE TO PLAY UP ISOLATED STATEMENTS, BUT THE REALLY ENDURING QUALITIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED AND HAVE NEVER BEEN CHALLENGED. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS THE SAME AS IT ALWAYS WAS. IT IS NOT; BUT THE CHANGES IN TONE, IN QUALITY, IN EMPHASIS, HAVE BEEN ALTOGETHER BENEFICIAL AND WERE IN FACT INEVITABLE. NO ONE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED AND DESCRIBED THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP - ONE OF DEEPER MUTUAL RESPECT, OF MATURITY, OF HEALTHY CANDOUR, OF REAL FRIENDSHIP BASED ON A FRANK RECOGNITION OF OUR PARTICULAR NATIONAL INTERESTS - WITH GREATER ELOQUENCE THAN MARSHALL GREEN. NO ONE HAS DONE MORE TO BRING ABOUT THESE CHANGES. OUR RELATIONSHIP IS VERY MUCH STRONGER AS A RESULT. IT IS RARE THAT I AM ABLE TO QUOTE THE PRESS IN SUPPORT OF MY GOVERNMENT - ESPECIALLY THESE DAYS - BUT I THINK THE FINANCIAL REVIEW PUT THE SITUATION FAIRLY IN THESE WORDS ON TUESDAY:

"THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ALLIANCE HAS WEATHERED THIS FLUID PERIOD REMARKABLY WELL, A PERIOD IN WHICH ONE SIDE WAS STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH A MORE INDEPENDENT IDENTITY AND THE OTHER TO MAINTAIN ITS POWER AND PRESTIGE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

MR GREEN ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND PLAYED A VERY EXPERIENCED HAND IN CANBERRA. HE WAS PROFESSIONAL ENOUGH TO REALISE THAT THE INTERESTS OF BASICALLY LIKE-MINDED NATIONS WOULD ULTIMATELY TRANSCEND A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, CLASH OF PERSONALITIES AND MINOR DIFFERENCES IN POLICY".

I ACCEPT THAT JUDGMENT. AMBASSADOR GREEN IS NOW MOVING TO MORE EXALTED LEVELS, BUT WE SHALL ALL MISS HIM IN AUSTRALIA. WE SHALL WISH HIM WELL.

HE AND I HAVE HAD THE HONOUR TO BE JOINT PATRONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN SYDNEY NEXT MARCH AND APRIL AS PART OF THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. FOLLOWING THE MOTTO OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION - "A PAST TO REMEMBER, A FUTURE TO MOULD" - THE FESTIVAL PROMISES TO BE AN EVENT OF TRULY MEMORABLE IMPORTANCE. A GREAT DEAL OF PLANNING HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE, AND MUCH OF IT WILL BE FAMILIAR TO YOU - SCHOOL PAGEANTS, DRAMA, MUSIC AND BALLETT PERFORMANCES, THE "SISTER CITIES" PROGRAM. I COMMEND ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THESE PLANS. TONIGHT, HOWEVER, I WANT TO MENTION SOME OF THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR WHICH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE.

FIRST, I HAVE HAD THE HONOUR TO INVITE VICE-PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER TO VISIT AUSTRALIA FOR THE FESTIVAL. HE HAS ACCEPTED. I AM HOPEFUL THAT HIS VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN MARCH. SOME OF YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE HAD A VISIT FROM ANOTHER ROCKEFELLER IN MARCH AND APRIL THIS YEAR - THE PRESIDENT OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN NEW YORK, BLANCHETTE ROCKEFELLER, MRS JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III, SISTER-IN-LAW OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, A GREAT LADY, THE MOST ELEGANT OF PATRICIANS! WE THOUGHT IT ONLY PROPER, IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, THAT THE FEMALE ROCKEFELLER SHOULD COME HERE FIRST. (THE MODERN MASTERS EXHIBITION, INCIDENTALLY, ATTRACTED 382,000 VISITORS. THERE'S NOT DOUBT THAT A ROCKEFELLER CAN PULL IN THE CROWDS).

MUCH CAREFUL THOUGHT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE ROLE AUSTRALIA SHOULD PLAY IN CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL IN THE UNITED STATES HERSELF. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASSISTED IN THIS BY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF 24 DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS LED BY PROFESSOR MANNING CLARK, A.C. I NOTICE THAT SOME OF THEM ARE WITH US TONIGHT. ON THEIR RECOMMENDATION THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ENDOW A CHAIR OF AUSTRALIAN STUDIES AT HARVARD. PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH HARVARD HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THE CHAIR WILL BE AT RESEARCH LEVEL AND FORM A CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES BY OTHER AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT. WE SHALL WANT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF HARVARD'S WISHES IN THIS REGARD.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHAIR WILL BE A FIRST STEP ONLY. WE HOPE IT WILL FORM THE NUCLEUS OF EXPANDED AND CONTINUING ACADEMIC STUDIES IN AMERICA OF ALL ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA AND OF AUSTRALIAN INTERESTS IN A WIDER REGIONAL CONTEXT. I COMMEND THIS PROPOSAL TO THE GREAT COMPANIES AND CORPORATIONS - MANY OF WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES ARE HERE TONIGHT - WHICH OPERATE IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SOME OF THEM, I TRUST, WILL SEE IN THE CHAIR A FOCAL POINT FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ENDOWMENTS IN THEIR OWN NAMES IN DISCIPLINES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THEM.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SPONSOR A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE VISITS BY A NON-ACADEMIC CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY - FARMERS, BUSINESSMEN, CIVIC LEADERS, TRADE UNIONISTS - BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND AMERICA. WE SHALL SUPPORT AN AMERICAN TOUR BY THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND ART, CRAFTS, AND OTHER EXHIBITIONS. WE SHALL SET ASIDE FUNDS TO ENABLE AUSTRALIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN SPECIFIC EVENTS ARRANGED BY AMERICAN STATES, CITIES AND INSTITUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION - THE BIGGEST MUSEUM COMPLEX IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN THE WORLD - HAS INVITED AN AUSTRALIAN EXHIBIT TO TOUR ITS CIRCUIT OF MUSEUMS. WE SHALL ACCEPT THIS INVITATION, DRAWING FROM MANY AUSTRALIAN MUSEUMS MATERIAL RELATED TO AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN LINKS FROM OUR EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY.

THERE IS ONE OTHER PROPOSAL I HAVE TO ANNOUNCE TONIGHT. AMERICANS HAVE MADE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO AUSTRALIAN LIFE. NONE IS MORE ENDURING OR STRIKING THAN THAT OF WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN. SINCE GRIFFIN'S DESIGN FOR CANBERRA WAS SELECTED IN 1912, THE NATIONAL CAPITAL HAS BECOME A MONUMENT TO HIS VISION AND ARCHITECTURAL SKILL - A GARDEN CITY. GRIFFIN MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE AND TOWN PLANNING IN OTHER PARTS OF AUSTRALIA. NOVEMBER 1976 WILL SEE THE CENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH. THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO HONOUR HIM WITH THE ERECTION OF A MEMORIAL IN CANBERRA. THIS WILL ALSO COINCIDE WITH THE BICENT^{EN}_XARY CELEBRATIONS. A COMPETITION WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR TO CHOOSE A DESIGN FOR THE MEMORIAL. THE MEMORIAL WILL BE SITED ON THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT AINSLIE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WILL BE GIVING FURTHER DETAILS OF THE COMPETITION IN A STATEMENT THIS EVENING.

I THANK PROFESSOR MANNING CLARK AND HIS COMMITTEE FOR THE TIME THEY HAVE SPENT AND THE WORK THEY HAVE DONE IN PREPARING PROGRAMS FOR THE BICENTENARY FESTIVAL. I THANK AMBASSADOR GREEN; MR ALLEN MOYES, PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, AN OFFICER OF THE ORDER FOR AUSTRALIA FOR "DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF A HIGH DEGREE IN THE FIELDS OF MANAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS"; MR CHARLES BERNARD, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY; AND MR BROOKS WILSON, A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FESTIVAL 1976. I AM HAPPY THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONTRIBUTING IN FULL MEASURE TO AN OCCASION THAT WILL HONOUR THE NOBLEST IDEALS IN THE AMERICAN TRADITION AND DEVELOP FURTHER THE INDISSOLUBLE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN PEOPLES.
