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PRIME MINISTER

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MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN ON
THE OCCASION OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE BASIC TREATY OF
FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR FUKUDA

On the occasion of the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Australia and Japan, I have great pleasure in renewing to you the best wishes of the Government and people of Australia.

The Treaty formally recognises the successes of the past in our bilateral relations. It recognises the importance of our commercial ties and our mutual interest in being reliable suppliers to and market for each other.

The Treaty does not, however, dwell only on the past. As I said at the time of signature, it contains within it firm commitments by both our countries to broadening our relations beyond the purely commercial, to scientific, cultural, education and other fields. I am confident that our peoples will actively pursue this deepening of our mutual awareness and understanding.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN TO MR FRASER

On this auspicious occasion of the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia, I take great pleasure in expressing my profound gratification on behalf of the Government and people of Japan.

For the last quarter of a century, the mutual complementarity of our two economies has drawn us so close to each other, and we have grown into indispensable trading partners.

At the same time, the need has recently been keenly felt in both countries to diversify and broaden mutual contacts and to develop our relations not only in trade and economy but also in various other fields. Sincere efforts have been put forth at both government and private levels to sustain effective channels of dialogue and to enhance mutual understanding between our two peoples.

No doubt the Basic Treaty is wrought out along this line of thinking. The Treaty is designed as an instrument for cooperation in consolidating and perpetuating such friendly relations already existing between our two nations and I am convinced of the distinctive significance of this instrument.

The foundation for such cooperation has just been laid, and what matters now is to put the letter and the spirit of the Treaty into effect for many years to come. Its purpose will be best served not only by its careful observance but also by mutual trust and concession in its application by both parties.

I am certain that the conclusion of this Treaty will add a new page in the history of Japan-Australia relations.
