

MEDIA RELEASE

CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES DEFENCE SECRETARY

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister,
the Rt. Hon J.D. Anthony, C.H., M.P.)

Ministers had a most valuable exchange of views this morning with the United States Secretary of Defence, Mr. Caspar Weinberger.

During the talks, Mr. Weinberger emphasised the importance which the U.S. attaches to the ANZUS alliance, and its appreciation of Australia's defence effort.

I stated that Australia regards the ANZUS alliance as central to Australia's defence strategy, and sees itself as making an important contribution to the alliance. I said also that it was very important for the U.S. to maintain its strategic interest in the Pacific region.

Discussions at this morning's talks on the global and regional security situation were wide-ranging and candid, as appropriate between representatives of Governments and societies sharing similar values.

Mr. Weinberger will have further discussions this afternoon with the Minister for Defence, Mr. Sinclair.

Canberra,
5 November 1982.