



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

10 MAY 1988

I have today sent the following message to President Mitterrand:

Please accept my warmest personal congratulations, and those of my Government, on your re-election as President of France. Your historic achievement is very much admired here in Australia.

The relationship between our two countries has grown steadily over the past seven years and I look forward to its further development during your second term of Office. In particular, your country's very significant participation in Australia's Bicentennial celebrations has underlined our shared values, which will be highlighted again next year when the world celebrates the Bicentennial of the French Revolution.

I am confident that our two countries will be able to develop further the bilateral relationship in a more mature atmosphere, which allows us to discuss all issues frankly and openly. I want you to know that your concerns about the recent violence in New Caledonia, the polarisation of communities and about the need for dialogue, are sentiments which are welcomed and shared in Australia. I am writing to you separately about this important issue.

It is my sincere hope, Your Excellency, that your re-election will mark a new phase in constructive dialogue between our two friendly countries.

Once again, congratulations on your splendid victory. I wish you every success in tackling the tasks which lie ahead.

Bob Hawke

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