



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

28 NOVEMBER 1990

I have today sent the following message to Mr John Major:

I write on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Government and people of Australia, to offer you my warm congratulations on your election as leader of the Conservative Party.

You will take over as Prime Minister of Great Britain at a critically important time. Matters such as the search for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, the international response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the establishment of a new order in Europe and elsewhere, will shape the international system for many years to come. These challenges are great, but I am sure that under your leadership Britain will play a constructive and creative leadership role in developing international responses to them.

I have personally derived great satisfaction from the way in which our two countries have strengthened and redefined the important links between us in recent years. Our historical ties are increasingly being supplemented by a recognition that across many fields of human activity Australia and Britain still have much to offer each other. I hope that this process will continue under your leadership.

I look forward to seeing you in London in January for the Commonwealth meeting, and to welcoming you to Australia as a guest of my Government at some later stage.

With best wishes

Bob Hawke