



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP

UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

On behalf of the Australian Government and people, I warmly congratulate Governor Clinton on his election as President of the United States of America.

Governor Clinton's great victory represents a clear mandate for renewal and change. The American people have attached great importance to this year's presidential election, as demonstrated by the very high voter turn-out. They have responded positively to Governor Clinton's call for revival of America's domestic strength as a prerequisite for competing in the global economy and exercising effective international leadership.

It is important for Australia, and other members of the international community, that the United States be confident of its own strengths and values and sure of its role in the world. This is especially critical in this time of profound change in the international system.

The Government is encouraged by the moderate and internationalist foreign policy stance that Governor Clinton articulated during the campaign. He affirmed strong support for the multilateral trading system.

On the immediate agenda, Australia attaches high priority to an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and hopes the incoming Administration will work hard in this direction.

The Government looks forward to working closely with the new President and his Administration. At this time of change in US political leadership, a point of continuity will be the close ties of partnership and cooperation which Australia and the United States have enjoyed for over half a century.

The Australian Government also pays its respects to President Bush's achievements over the last four years. The world will long remember his successful management of US foreign policy during the challenging period as the Cold War ended, and his very effective leadership of an international coalition in response to Iraq's aggression towards Kuwait.

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