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## **PRIME MINISTER**

### **US PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES AUSTRALIA-AMERICA FRIENDSHIP WEEK**

I warmly welcome President Clinton's announcement that Mr Philip Lader and Ambassador Genta Hawkins Holmes will be his personal representatives for Australia-America Friendship Week. Mr Lader will be known to many Australians as a former President of Bond University. Mr Lader is a successful businessman and educator and served as White House Deputy Chief of Staff in the Clinton Administration during 1992-93.

Mr Lader and Ambassador Hawkins Holmes will participate in various Friendship Week activities and attend a number of Battle of the Coral Sea commemorative events from 2-10 May.

The Battle of the Coral Sea was fought in May 1942 and proved to be a turning point of the war in the South Pacific. It laid the foundation for the Australian-American alliance. Fifty-five years on our partnership continues to serve regional and global stability and prosperity and is testimony to the strong bonds of friendship between the United States and Australia.

4 May 1997