

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

0127

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between
Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia and
President George Bush

PARTICIPANTS: President George Bush and Prime Minister
Bob Hawke

DATE, TIME January 25, 1989, 5:27 P.M. - 5:31 P.M.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President called Prime Minister Hawke to establish contact with him in his new position as President.

Prime Minister Hawke responded that it was a very appropriate moment for the President to call because it was Australian National Day. The Prime Minister mentioned that he had just been at breakfast with the Chairman of Australia Day Council John Newcombe, and that Newcombe asked to send his greetings back to President Bush.

The President responded that he hoped that Prime Minister Hawke would also send his best to Mr. Newcombe. The President continued that he wanted to call to be sure that all was going well in the relations between the two countries. He said the United States has a good team coming into office with Secretary of State Baker, General Scowcroft and a new White House Chief of Staff, whom the Prime Minister may not yet know.

Prime Minister Hawke responded that the President has assembled a very impressive team. He said the President has put his own stamp on the Administration. He speculated about opportunities to play golf with the new Secretary of State and commented on the previous secretary's skills. The President responded that he would like to play as well, and there followed a brief exchange about their respective golf records.

The President then said that he hoped that the Prime Minister would let him know if anything needs to be attended to.

The Prime Minister said he fully understands that it will not be possible to see the President in Australia during the President's upcoming visit to Asia. The Prime Minister emphasized, however, that the people of Australia would love to see the President there and he particularly stressed that it would be very helpful personally to the Prime Minister if the visit could take place this year. He then repeated his request for a visit "this year."

The President said that the Australian Ambassador had been in to see General Scowcroft that day and mentioned the desire of the Prime Minister for the President to go to Australia this year. The President said that he cannot say at this point yes or no, and that the issue would have to be staffed, but the Prime Minister ought to be aware that personally speaking the President would love to do it. He asked the Prime Minister to stay in touch and said that the American side will keep working on this request.

The Prime Minister closed by saying he sent the best regards of Mrs. Hawke to the President and Mrs. Bush and there followed a brief exchange complimenting their respective First Ladies.

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