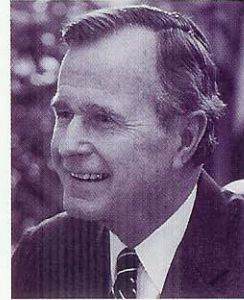


GEORGE BUSH

Kennebunkport, Maine
May 31, 1993

Mr. Phil Scanlan
Convenor
Australian American Leadership Dialogue
141 Walker Street
North Sydney NS 2060
AUSTRALIA



Dear Phil,

I am delighted to learn from my good friend Mel Sembler that the initiative we discussed in Sydney last year has come to fruition and that the first meeting will be in Washington. I congratulate you and all those individuals who have worked so hard to bring this initiative together.

The ties between the United States and Australia resulting from our shared experience in the Pacific War were and are real. We have been close allies for over half a century and these ties have been highly productive, with the economic and domestic evolution of East Asia marking a huge success for United States' and allied strategy and policy.

You have correctly identified the challenge before us -- to engineer a smooth passing of the baton in American/Australian relations from the generation which forged the alliance in the presence of war to the generations which must now work together for a permanent, productive, and prosperous peace.

The bilateral relationship is of major significance for both Australia and the United States. As I said during my Presidential visit to Sydney, a strengthening relationship with Australia is in the direct national interests of the United States.

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GEORGE BUSH

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I know your agenda will focus on exchanging views about domestic policies, and am pleased you recognize the end of the Cold War has changed but not diminished the risks to peace in the Asia Pacific region.

Our shared perspectives on Asia Pacific security are important to the development and evolution of strategies for peace. You have representatives from both teams who are well qualified to pursue this element of your agenda.

Finally, let me say something about our shared values. I agree with you that in today's world we should take care to differentiate between common values and common interests. For it is our common values that enable us to pursue our respective interests in the region.

No two countries on separate continents share as much politically, socially, culturally, and economically as the United States and Australia. This was recognized by our leaders in the crisis of the 1940s. Its continued acknowledgment by the wartime generation was important to peace and prosperity in the post-war decade. The same recognition among new generation leaders can yield similar benefits to both countries.

Barbara and I have fond memories of our many trips to Australia. My best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Bush".

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