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The ANZUS Treaty was signed in San Francisco on 1st September 1951, and came into effect on 29 April, 1952.

When President George H. W. Bush visited Australia in January 1992, the primary focus of the bilateral relationship was the military and intelligence alliance.

Today those elements of the relationship are stronger than ever.

In 1992 our diplomatic relations with the United States were managed through the office of the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Today, diplomatic relations are led by the Prime Minister of Australia and the President of the United States.

Official annual meetings involving United States Secretaries of Defense and State and Australian Defence and Foreign Ministers (AUSMIN), nowadays embrace matters in addition to defense and foreign affairs: Investment and Trade, reflecting Australia's largest economic as well as strategic partner, The Sciences, Technology, Cyber and Space.

Now in our 30th year, the Australian American Leadership Dialogue has been based on the understanding that the Australia-US relationship demands daily attention and constant nurturing and that neither country should take the other for granted.

These themes have been consistently addressed in detail since 1992 and they will continue to engage us through the next 30 years.

"A genuine Alliance is something that has to be worked out all the time", observed French historian Marc Bloch, a Sorbonne Professor who fought in the 1940 battle when the Germans broke through at the Meuse. "It is not enough to have it set down in writing. It must draw the breath of life from a multiplicity of daily contacts which, taken together knit the two parties into a single whole".

Australia's destiny is to add value to the rest of the planet.

- in order to do this AUSTRALIA must remain a tier #1 sustainably high performing country.
- we recognise our people and their skills as our nation's #1 national asset.
- we must invest in our #1 asset by providing the tools they need to collaborate 24/7—no matter how data intensively—with their global peers in their verticals of chosen endeavour.
- we construct a state-of-the-art digital platform, then nurture our digital platforms and secure them.
- this is the bedrock of future collaboration through public and private sectors converging with civil society.



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- this will underwrite our longer-term security and prosperity and reflects a total commitment by Australia to global engagement.
- core to which are our strategic and economic partnership with the United States, combined with far greater investments in multi-tiered relations with our neighbours throughout the Indo Pacific—notably Indonesia, China, India, Japan, RoK and ASEAN.

Alliances incorporating military and intelligence collaboration, free-trade agreements and investment freeways are complementary elements of a mutually reinforcing partnership. All the better if, as in the case of Australia and the US, there are also shared values and the common aspiration of becoming model inclusive societies. In his letter of May 31, 1993 President George Bush wrote:

“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.

Let me say something about shared values. I agree with you that in today’s world (1993) 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. Its continued acknowledgement 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.”

Founding US delegate to the AALD Hon Bob Zoellick was on the Bush Presidential visit in January 1992. At a recent event co-hosted by the AALD, Bob stated: *“History needs time to settle.”*

To illustrate, we note the statement on foreign policy by (External Affairs Minister) Percy Spender to the Australian Parliament on March 9, 1950:

“Situated as we are in the South-West corner of the Pacific, with the outlying islands of the Asian Continent almost touching our own Territories of New Guinea and Papua, our first and constant interest must be the security of our own homeland and the maintenance of peace in the area in which our country is geographically placed. We could many years ago reasonably regard ourselves as isolated from the main threats to our national security. Our security, however, has become an immediate and vital issue.”



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From today's vantage point, the close multi-tiered engagement developed between Australia and the United States might seem natural, even inevitable.

However, in the late 1940s the primary concern of the United States was to stabilise Western Europe in the face of perceived threat from the Soviet Union, thereby rendering some hesitancy in making commitments in Asia and the Pacific.

It was a considerable achievement by the Menzies Government, in particular External Affairs Minister Spender, in pressing for and concluding a pact in the Pacific. Spender built upon foundations laid by his predecessor as External Affairs Minister for the Curtin and Chifley Governments, H.V. Evatt.

- Percy Spender was pushy, and he had to be.
- Spender believed his meeting with President Truman was the catalyst which enabled consideration of his Pacific Pact proposal to move forward.
- President Truman's appointment of John Foster Dulles as his special representative was crucial to Spender's ability to develop a relationship of mutual trust.
- In Spender's estimation, Dulles "*was, in my judgement, a man of great integrity of mind.*" They subsequently became great friends.
- As former US Secretary of State George Shultz observed: "*TRUST IS THE COIN OF THE REALM*"

At the September 1, 1951 signing ceremony of ANZUS at the Presidio overlooking San Francisco Bay, Spender included the following in his remarks:

"Let it be said clearly that this Treaty is directed at no nation. It is conceived not in hostility against anyone but in a devout dedication to the cause of peace.

Since we shut our eyes to world realities, only at our peril, we announce to the world that if any nation, no matter who that nation may be, engages in aggression against any one of us, we will stand fast together and in accordance with our respective constitutional processes act together to repel that aggression.

This Treaty is accordingly an instrument not of offence but of defence. It is a pact for peace.

The history of mankind has been largely determined by the influence of oceans. Modern civilization had its beginnings in a Mediterranean epoch. It developed in an Atlantic period. It is now entering the Pacific era.



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It is no exaggeration to say that here in this ocean will take place great historical events which will determine not only the destinies of western civilisation but of free men and women throughout the world.

The current geostrategic environment is ever changing and challenging:

- Australia is required to recalibrate our vision of global engagement with commensurate intellectual, hard and soft power resourcing.
- 26 million Australians live on the doorstep of a massively populous Indo Pacific neighbourhood.
- China, India and Indonesia alone account for three billion fellow human beings.
- Australia's imperative is to remain a sustainable high performing community obligated to add value to the rest of the planet, especially across our Indo Pacific neighbourhood.
- Externally the island continent of Australia is perceived as a treasured planetary asset.
- There is a yearning for a TEAM AUSTRALIA approach whereby everyone complements and reinforces one another in mutual collaboration.
- Understanding how $1+1+1 = 9$ is the challenge and opportunity which beckons us.

Australia and the United States

The Power of Partnership: The New Pivot to the Indo-Pacific

As we focus on the future of ANZUS, and the broadest context of the Australia-USA strategic partnership, what is needed is a whole of nation commitment by Australians to safeguarding our security, prosperity and capacity to deliver on our planetary mission of adding value to the rest of humanity.

Phil Scanlan AM

FOUNDER

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