

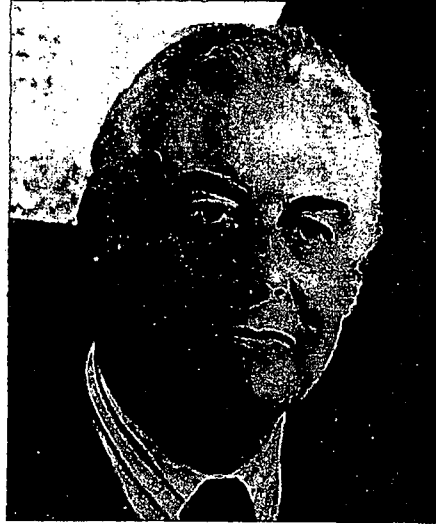
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AUSTRALIA

(Edward) Gough WHITLAM

Prime Minister



Gough (rhymes with cough) Whitlam became Prime Minister of Australia in December 1972, when he led the Australian Labor Party (ALP) to its first victory in federal elections in almost a quarter of a century. He has been parliamentary leader of the party since 1967. Whitlam served concurrently as Foreign Affairs Minister until November 1973, when he relinquished the portfolio to Senator Donald Willesee.



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In May 1974 Parliamentary opposition forced Whitlam to dissolve both Houses of Parliament and call for general elections, in which the ALP won by an extremely narrow margin. The party caucus met on 10 June and reelected Whitlam as ALP leader and, therefore, as Prime Minister. Despite Whitlam's strong support for incumbent deputy party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Lance Barnard, however, the caucus selected the leftist James Cairns to replace Barnard. Most of the rest of the Cabinet remained the same.

The ALP caucus vote represented a leftward shift in the party, but [redacted] the vote was less an expression of a left-right split than a demonstration of general dissatisfaction

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[redacted] These internal strains, together with the closeness of the ALP's margin of victory in the May elections, are likely to affect the operating style of both Whitlam and his government.



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(Edward) Gough WHITLAM

### Policy Directions During 1973

Under Whitlam's leadership, Australia has turned toward a more independent stance and away from what he describes as the "fawning attitudes" of previous governments toward the United States and the United Kingdom. His essentially nationalistic desire to tout Australia as a "robust medium-sized power beholden to no larger powers" plays a large part in his policy decisions. He identifies Australia with the nonaligned and the less developed countries, particularly in Africa, an attitude that seemingly reflects his government's more tolerant attitude toward non-white nations. He has become increasingly involved in improving relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC), though he denies allegations that Australia will become China's advocate in Southeast Asia.

### Decisions from the Prime Minister's Office

Shortly after being sworn in as Prime Minister, Whitlam announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with the PRC, recalled Australia's Ambassador to Taiwan and closed the Embassy there. He has established Embassies in East Germany, North Vietnam, the Vatican and several African nations and is expected to announce diplomatic relations with North Korea during 1974. Whitlam has banned South African sports teams from Australia and closed the Rhodesian Information Center.

### Interest in Regional Groups

Whitlam supports Southeast Asian regional bodies that are organized to promote peace and prosperity in the area. He is interested in forming a regional forum that would embrace all of the states from Iran to Korea, including the PRC. He regards China and India as the real center of gravity in Asia rather than the smaller East Asian countries to which Australia has been close. He nevertheless recognizes the economic importance of Japan and the security that Indonesia provides as a buffer between Australia and Communist forces.

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Defense Posture

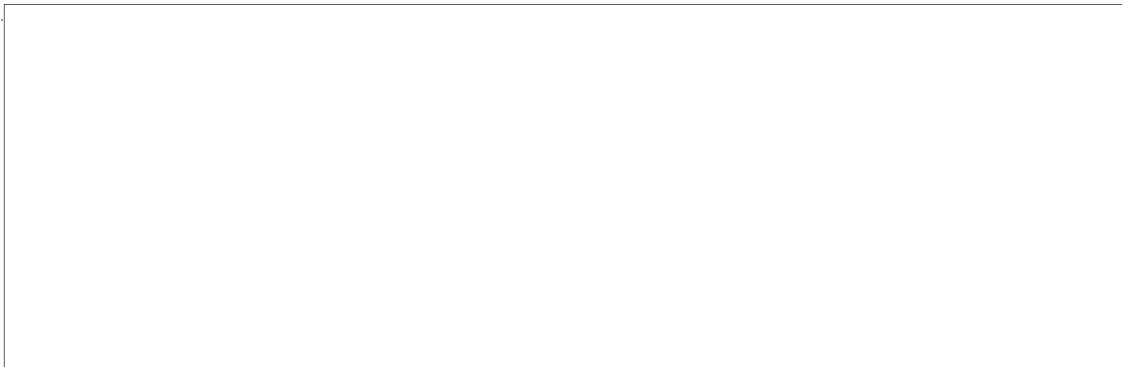
One of Whitlam's first official acts was to eliminate military conscription and to free all draft resisters. He has withdrawn combat troops from Vietnam and announced plans to recall those troops stationed in Singapore under the umbrella of the Five-Power Defense Arrangement (Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and the United Kingdom). Whitlam seems determined that Australia will no longer participate in SEATO-sponsored military exercises but will continue to maintain a low profile aimed at social and economic development.

Attitude Toward the United States



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Whitlam considers himself a good friend of this country. He asserts firm support for ANZUS, partly because he recognizes the ultimate necessity of the US security umbrella but also because the Australian public sets great store by the American alliance. He has praised the constructive achievements of President Nixon and Dr. Henry Kissinger but does not hesitate to voice scathing criticisms of US policies. He publicly denounced the renewed bombings of North Vietnam in December 1972 and sent a very critical letter to President Nixon. On a later occasion he expressed the view that the US military alert called in November 1973 during the Middle East crisis was for US domestic purposes; two weeks later, however, he acknowledged from information he had received that it had been justified.



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(Edward) Gough WHITLAM



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Early Life and Legal Career

(Edward) Gough Whitlam was born on 11 July 1916 in Kew, a suburb of Melbourne. His father, the late H.R.E. Whitlam, was Commonwealth crown solicitor, a senior post in the Attorney General's Department, from 1936 to 1948. Young Whitlam attended St. Paul's College at the University of Sydney, where he earned B.A. and LL.B. degrees. Like most college students, he developed many interests but did not concentrate on any single one.



While serving in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II, he became interested in Labor's policies. He was elected to Parliament in 1952 to represent the industrial suburb of Werriwa.

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ALP Career

Overcoming the distrust of the class-conscious old guard of the ALP of those from a middle-class background, Whitlam was elected deputy leader of the parliamentary party in 1960. Seven years later he assumed the leadership position, following the party's disastrous defeat in the federal elections in 1966. As leader of a party with an isolationist and pro-Communist image, Whitlam determined to reform its policies.



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His proposals to provide wider representation in the federal executive were ignored, however. In early 1968, when the ALP once again found itself seriously split between the right wing and the Communist-influenced left wing, Whitlam resigned as leader in an attempt to prove his strength in the federal parliamentary caucus. He was reelected as ALP leader, but

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he was returned with a slimmer margin of support than when initially elected in 1967.

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Whitlam solidified his position as undisputed leader of the party prior to the general elections in October 1969. After he guided his party to a near victory in the elections, the ALP federal parliamentary caucus unanimously reelected him its leader. By 1970 the party was no longer split into hardline left- and right-wing groups. The majority of its members were in the center, and they were loudly vocal in protesting against factionalism. Whitlam must continue to nod to the ALP's left wing, but he clearly dominates his party.

Travel

During his parliamentary career, Whitlam has traveled throughout the world. He has visited the United States on several occasions: as a Foreign Leader Grantee in 1964; as a leader of the opposition, to meet with senior government and Congressional leaders; and, as Prime Minister, to meet with President Nixon in 1973.



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During his first year as Prime Minister, Whitlam visited almost all of the Asian countries, including the PRC, and traveled to Mexico, Canada and several Western European countries.



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CIA/DDI/CRS

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19 June 1974

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