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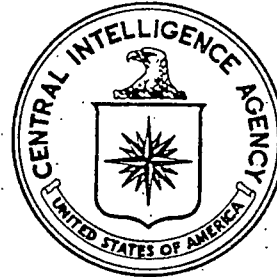
AUSTRALIA

(Edward) Gough WHITLAM

Prime Minister

Gough (rhymes with cough) Whitlam, parliamentary leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) since 1967, led his party to a major victory in the general elections of 2 December 1972. It was the first success at the polls in almost a quarter of a century for the ALP-- even though it is the largest political organization in the country. Whitlam, who took the oath of office as Prime Minister on 5 December, governed the country in conjunction with Deputy Prime Minister Lance Barnard until 18 December, when he named a 27-member Cabinet. He kept the Foreign Affairs portfolio for himself.

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he is extremely capable and persistent and a formidable debater in Parliament. His knowledge of foreign and domestic affairs; his memory for facts, dates and names; and his general familiarity with current issues are perhaps his strongest assets.

A pragmatic politician, rather than a doctrinaire socialist like many ALP members, Whitlam favors some policies that outrage some socialists, such as government subsidies for private schools and a strong free-enterprise economy. The central theme of his political rhetoric has been the elimination of social inequality. He says, "My role has been that of an innovator; my style is evolutionary; my substance the most revolutionary the party has ever had; and no subject is taboo

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as far as I am concerned." After the election he declared that the new government had "a clear mandate to carry out all its policies."

Under Whitlam's leadership, Australia will probably develop more independent foreign, defense and economic policies. His strong nationalistic desire to increase Australia's influence in Pacific and Asian countries may enable him to emerge as one of the most significant figures in Australia's history. His assumption of the Prime Ministry comes at a time when his country has withdrawn its troops from Vietnam, and regional defense decisions can be made without regard to Britain's presence. Australia seems ready to embark on Whitlam's cautious but independent policies.

Whitlam says that the great difference between an also-ran and a leader is that, in President Truman's words, "The buck stops here." It is the "new-look" Whitlam who has been given the opportunity to sit at the Prime Minister's desk. This term has been applied to Whitlam on five major occasions in the past. When elected ALP deputy leader in 1960, he was described as a "new-look" type. On his return from a 1964 world tour commentators said it was a "new-look" Whitlam who took his place on the front bench in Parliament. In 1967 he was named head of the ALP's "new-look" team, none of whom had a trade union background and three of whom had university educations. After 3 years of hard work Whitlam emerged in 1970 at the head of a "new-look" unified party; and in 1971, when he returned from China, he was sporting a "new-look" hairstyle.

Labor Victory

Between 1904--3 years after the establishment of the Commonwealth--and 1949 the ALP governed Australia on several occasions. Since then, however, the party had lost nine straight elections prior to its present victory. It suffered

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its most resounding defeat in 1966, when it assumed a hardline, antiwar posture. At that time most Australians strongly supported the military commitment to Vietnam of the conservative Liberal Party-Country Party (LP-CP) coalition government. For the 1969 elections, Whitlam campaigned on domestic issues, with special emphasis on social reforms and greater economic development. His party was narrowly defeated, emerging with a seven-seat minority in the 125-member House of Representatives, the larger and more important of the two Houses of Parliament.

Widespread dissatisfaction with the LP-CP coalition, which had governed since 1949, was evident in public opinion polls collected during the 18 months prior to the 1972 elections. For many Australians, in an age when both the government and the people seem imbued with a sense of mission, Labor's platform was clear and unequivocal. Whitlam and other ALP candidates appealed to the electorate to give them a chance, pledging that a vote for Labor would be an investment in Australia's future.

ALP candidates chanted, "It's time for a change!" to overflow audiences. As in 1969, the recurring theme throughout the campaign was one of domestic issues, with foreign policies playing a minor role. The 1972 manifestos of all parties were remarkably similar; political analysts in Australia described the ALP victory as one for the man even more than for the party.

Policy Statements

Domestic Issues

As principal party spokesman for the 1972 elections, Whitlam pushed for a program of social improvement that actually differed little from the LP-CP platform. He proposed policies to

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guarantee equality for all levels of education; to offer an equitable system of taxation for the lower-income groups; to train youth leaders, pre-school teachers and social workers; and to provide land rights to the Australian aborigines. Com-
plaining about excessive secrecy in the government, he intends to introduce a freedom of information act modeled after that of the United States.

Business leaders and economists, traditionally the backbone of the LP-CP coalition with their moral and financial support, openly campaigned for the Labor Party. They accused Prime Minister William McMahon of not acting quickly enough to contain spiraling inflation despite increased unemployment. McMahon steadfastly refused to contemplate a wage and price freeze; Whitlam says he will establish a price justification tribunal to formulate price and income policy.

Foreign Affairs

[REDACTED] Whitlam will probably not make major changes in Australia's foreign policies. In line with his plans for a more independent Australian stance in international affairs, however, Whitlam announced immediately after being sworn in as Prime Minister that he had already undertaken steps to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC). To keep the negotiations moving toward a satisfactory relationship, he has recalled Australia's Ambassador to Taiwan and will close the Embassy there. He has also named an Ambassador to the PRC.

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Whitlam's government will support Southeast Asian regional bodies that are organized to promote peace and prosperity in the area. He will work to have all French nuclear testing halted in the Pacific Ocean and has promised to ratify the Treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

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Defense Posture

All Australian military forces stationed overseas may be returned to Australia. Defense spending is likely to be increased to obtain necessary equipment for the home-based troops and to provide recruitment incentives for its planned all-volunteer armed service. One of Whitlam's first official acts as Prime Minister was to take steps to eliminate compulsory military conscription and to free all draft resisters.

The Labor government will honor Australia's commitment to the five-power defense arrangement with New Zealand and the United Kingdom for Singapore and Malaysia, but it plans to work for an early date for withdrawal of its troops from those nations. Australia's army advisers who were left behind in Vietnam to train South Vietnamese and Cambodian troops after the main withdrawal in March 1972 will be returned to Australia by the first of 1973.

Attitude Toward the United States

Whitlam is a good friend of the United States. He has expressed his support for the ANZUS alliance, the cornerstone of Australian foreign policy, but has publicly referred to SEATO as a dying

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In frequent visits to the United States, he has often met with President Nixon, Vice President Agnew and senior Cabinet and congressional leaders.

Whitlam's First 100 Hours

In the first 100 hours since taking office, Whitlam announced more new measures than his predecessor allegedly did in a year. In addition

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to those already mentioned, he scrapped the New Year's honors list; he put the prime ministerial Bentley up for sale, saying that he preferred to ride in the Australian-made Ford Galaxie that he used as opposition leader; and he became the first Australian Prime Minister to refuse an appointment to the Privy Council in London, a position that would have made him an official adviser to Queen Elizabeth II and allowed him to use "Right Honorable" before his name. He banned South African sports teams from Australia, and he ordered the Rhodesian Information Center to be closed. In a very timely move, Whitlam ended the taxation on wine. He gave government approval for equal pay for women, and, as an added touch, employed an attractive young female lawyer to present the case before the court.

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 first attended Knox Grammar School in Sydney, then Telopea Park High School in Canberra. From there

[REDACTED] he went to Canberra Grammar School, a Church of England establishment. After that he 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.

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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 Werriwa, the industrial suburb of Sydney.

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ALP Career

The class-conscious old guard of the faction-ridden ALP disliked Whitlam's middle-class background. They resented his well-cut suits, his impressive manner, his command of language and his intellectualism. He had not come up the hard way; he had no rugged trade union background, no experience in the calculating and intrigue of ALP and union politics. How could the lawyer son of the crown solicitor, brought up on Dryden, Pope and Beethoven in lush garden suburbs, be expected to appreciate the aspirations of the workers? Despite this background and ingrained party distrust of lawyers, his party elected him deputy leader in 1960.

During the early 1960's Whitlam worked well with ALP leader Arthur Calwell, who represented the party's leftwing faction. In 1963, however, with his eye on Calwell's position, he stated publicly that there should be a retirement age for politicians; Calwell, who was 67 at the time, and other elderly members of the party scathingly attacked him as an "upstart." The breach widened when Whitlam criticized party organization and methods of deciding policy and urged great care in selecting candidates for future elections.

In February 1967 Whitlam was elected parliamentary leader of the party to succeed Calwell, who resigned following a split over ALP policy on Vietnam issues. Calwell wanted the Australian troops brought home from Vietnam; Whitlam felt that they should remain. As leader of a party whose image was one of isolationism and pro-Communism, Whitlam determined to reform its policies.

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His proposals to provide wider representation in the federal executive were ignored, however. In

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early 1968, when the ALP once again found itself seriously split between the right wing and the Communist-influenced left wing, Whitlam [Redacted] resigned as leader in an attempt to prove his strength in the federal parliamentary caucus. He was reelected as ALP leader, but [Redacted] 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 rightwing groups. The majority of his members were in the center, and they were loudly vocal in protesting against factionalism.

Travel

During his parliamentary career, Whitlam has traveled throughout the world. In addition to his previously mentioned visits to the United States, he came to this country on a Foreign Leader Grant in 1964. In July 1971 he led a group of Australians to Peking for discussions with Premier Chou En-lai. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] the United States announced that Dr. Henry Kissinger was in Peking at that time setting up arrangements for President Nixon's trip.

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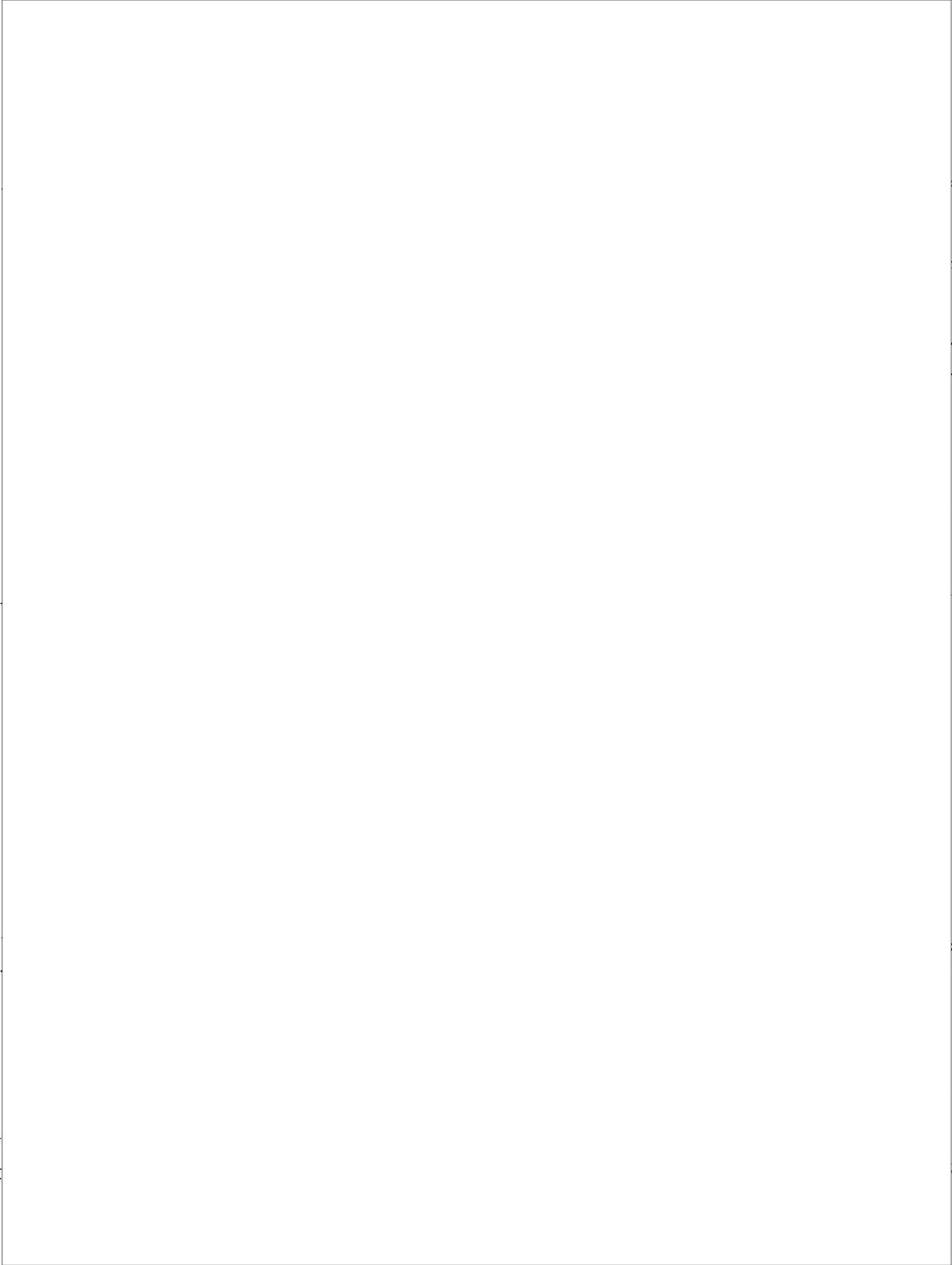
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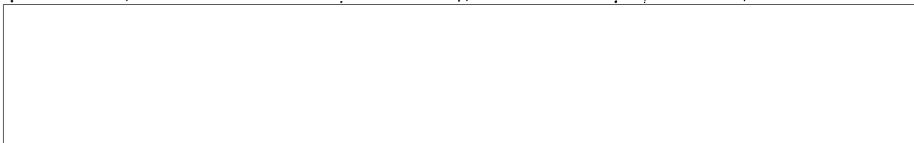
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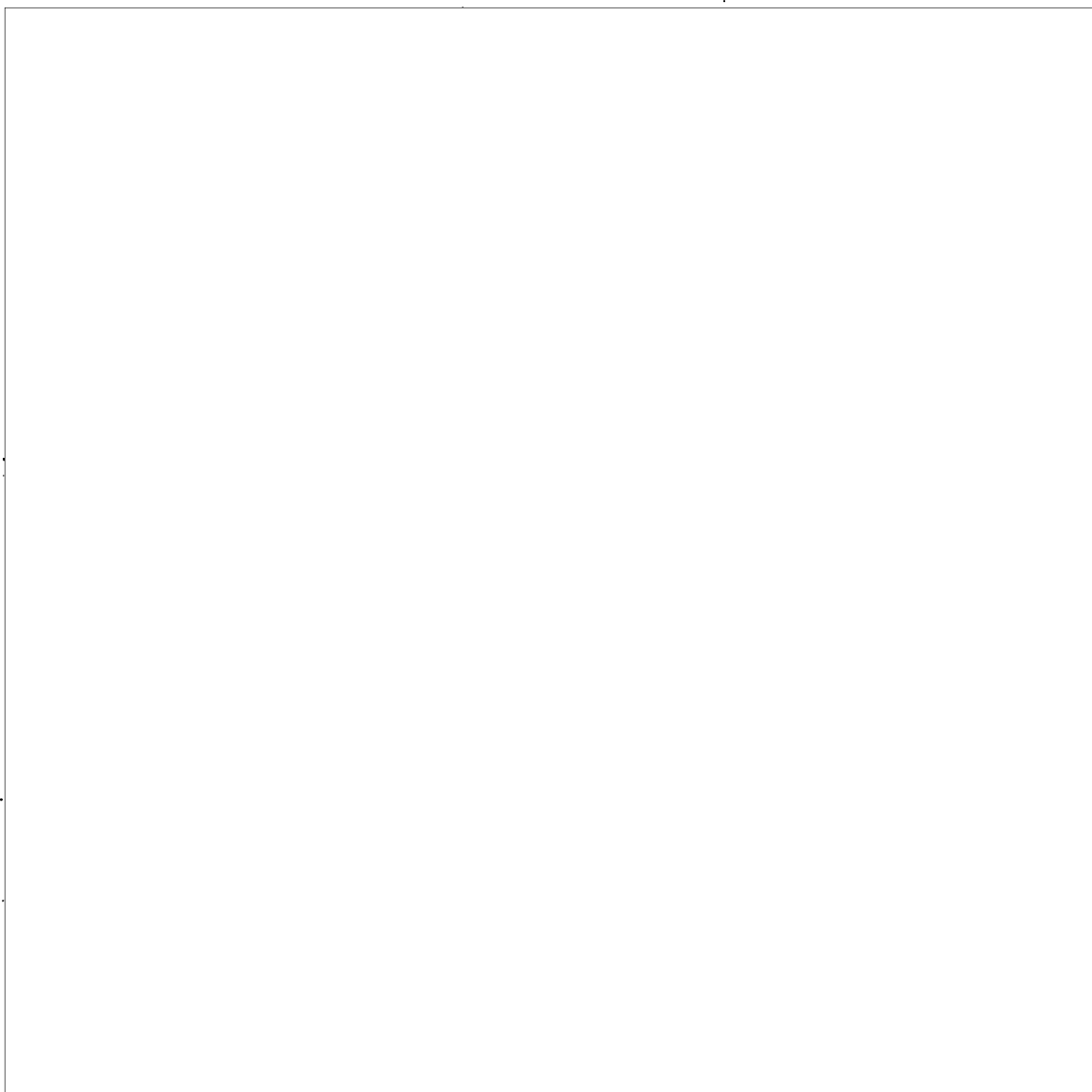
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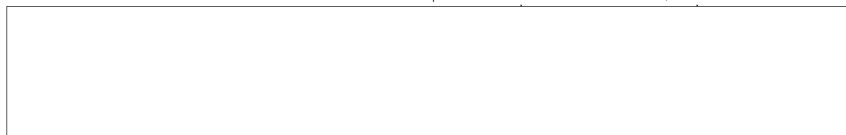


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