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(John) Malcolm FRASER   AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister

Addressed as:
 Mr. Prime Minister

        Leader of the Liberal
Party (LP) since March
1975, Malcolm Fraser,
45, became Prime Minis-
ter in the coalition
government formed after
the electoral victory
of the LP and the
National Country Party
on 13 December 1975.
As leader of the opposi-
tion, Fraser had been
named caretaker Prime
Minister on 11 November, when Australia's Governor
General sacked Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam
after a parliamentary impasse over the budget.
Long active in the LP, he had held several Cabinet
posts in previous conservative governments, most
recently (August 1971-December 1972) that of
Minister for Education and Science. Fraser also
served earlier (November 1969-March 1971) as Minis-
ter for Defense, and he has retained a keen
interest in defense and foreign policy matters.

        Born in Melbourne, John Malcolm Fraser is the
grandson of a man who came to Australia from Nova
Scotia during the 19th-century gold rush and
eventually became a member of the first Common-
wealth Parliament. Malcolm Fraser received a
master's degree with honors in philosophy, politi-
cal science and economics from Magdalen College of
Oxford University. First elected to the House of
Representatives in 1955, he has been reelected
ever since.

        Fraser visited the United States on a Leader
Grant in 1964 and returned in 1970 as Minister of
Defense to confer with US officials. A wealthy
man, he owns a house in Canberra and an 8,000-
acre estate in Victoria, where he raises cattle
and sheep. His leisure interests include fishing
and photography. Fraser is married and has four
children.

                              27 February 1976

                                CR M 76-10596

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