



(John) Malcolm FRASER

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister (since December 1975)

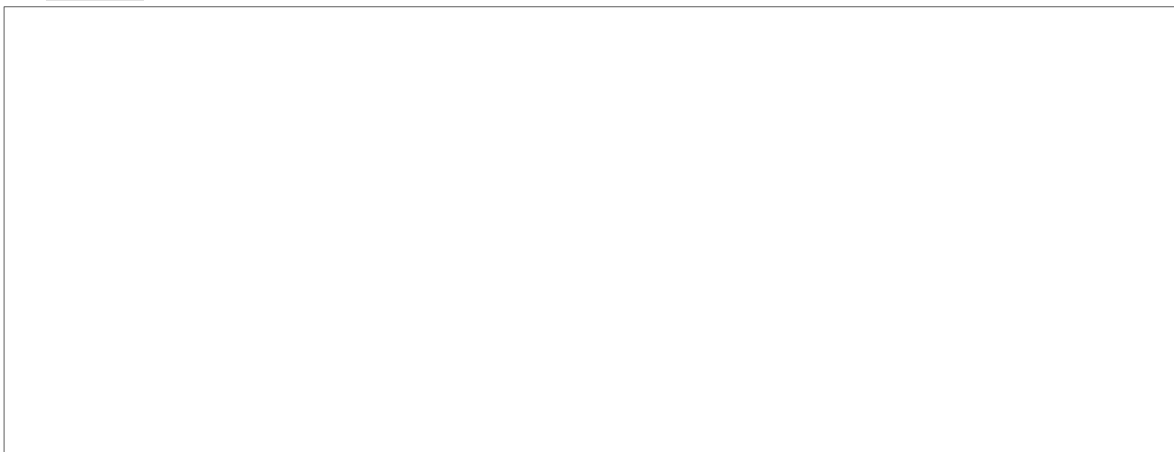
Addressed as:
Mr. Prime Minister



Leader of the Liberal Party (LP) since March 1975, Malcolm Fraser stands well to the right of most members of his basically conservative party and is determined to move Australian politics in that direction. He has taken direct personal control of his government in an effort to cut spending, give more powers to state governments, and give the average man greater "economic independence." The faltering of the economy in recent months and the defeat of the LP-National Country Party (NCP) coalition government in Fraser's home state of Victoria in April 1982 have combined to weaken his position. He nonetheless successfully withstood a challenge to his leadership by his longtime party rival and former Foreign Minister, Andrew Peacock, at a party caucus on 8 April.



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Foreign Policy

The dominant voice in Australian foreign policy, Fraser has faced fundamental policy issues squarely. He has strongly endorsed the US-Australian alliance, has expressed the hope that "good working relations"



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with China will continue, and has demanded that the Soviet Union prove its commitment to world peace by refraining from military expansion. Fraser has a strong bias against the USSR and is concerned that Western nations are being duped by the Soviets in disarmament talks. He also has strong doubts about the determination of the West to resist what he regards as the constant and unchanging Soviet effort to dominate Western Europe. In January 1980 Fraser's government strongly supported then President Jimmy Carter's position not to send an Olympic team to Moscow unless Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan by mid-February 1980. Simultaneously, Australia agreed to curtail grain shipments and to sharply limit the export of scientific and technological equipment to the Soviet Union. Fraser has visited the United States, most recently in June 1981.

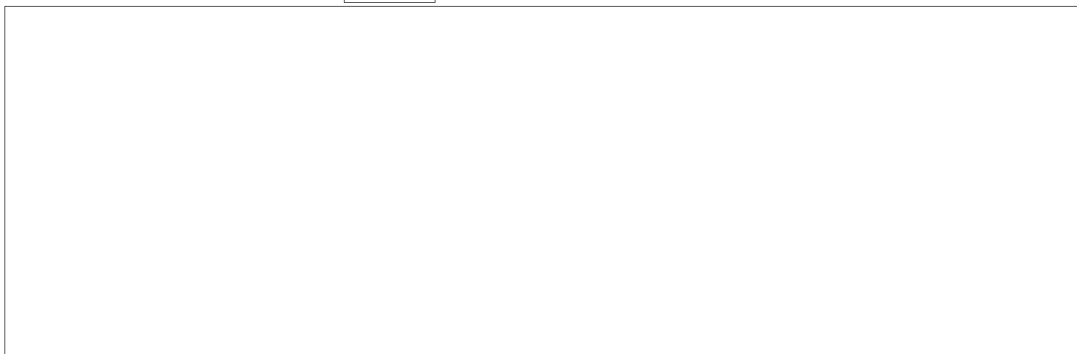
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Personal Data

Born in Melbourne, Fraser is the son of a wealthy grazier (cattle farmer). He holds a master's degree in philosophy, political science, and economics from Magdalen College, Oxford. In earlier conservative governments he served as Minister for the Army (1966-68), for Education and Science (1968-69, 1971-72), and for Defense (1969-71).

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(b)(1)

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Fraser, 51, is a wealthy man who has a house in one of Canberra's fashionable districts, as well as an estate in Victoria, where he raises cattle and sheep. He enjoys fishing and photography, but he can be roused to real enthusiasm when talking about his motorcycle. Fraser is married to the former Tamara Beggs and has two sons and two daughters.

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12 April 1982



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