

CIA/CR 177-12731 11

MICRO
ONLY(John) Malcolm FRASER

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister
(since December 1975)

(b)(3)

Addressed as:
Mr. Prime Minister

MICROFILMED

Leader of the Liberal Party, 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, restore more powers to state governments, and give the average man greater "economic independence." His top priority has been to control inflation, but both inflation and unemployment remain unsolved problems that threaten his government no less seriously than they did its predecessor. He visited Washington most recently in July 1976.

The dominant voice in Australian foreign policy, Fraser believes in facing fundamental policy issues squarely.

(b)(1)

[redacted] In his first major foreign policy speech to Parliament, in June 1976, he strongly endorsed the US-Australian alliance; expressed the hope that "good working relations" with the People's Republic of China would continue; and demanded that the Soviet Union prove its commitment to world peace by restraining its military expansionism. 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 believes to be the constant and unchanging Soviet effort to dominate Western Europe.

(b)(3)

(cont.)

CR M 77 12731

(b)(3)

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

Personal Data

Born in Melbourne, Fraser, 47, is the son of a wealthy grazier (cattle farmer). He attended the prestigious Melbourne Grammar School and received a master's degree in philosophy, political science and economics from Magdalen College, Oxford.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

A wealthy man, Fraser maintains a house in one of Canberra's fashionable districts as well as an 8,000-acre estate in Victoria, where he raises cattle and sheep. He lists his leisure interests as fishing and photography, but he can be roused to real enthusiasm when talking about his motorcycle. Fraser married Tamara Beggs in 1956, and the couple has two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Fraser

[Redacted]

(b)(6)

Career Highlights

1955	Elected to the House of Representatives
1966-68	Minister for the Army
1968-69; 1971-72	Minister for Education and Science
1969-71	Minister for Defense
Jan-Aug 1973	Shadow Minister for Primary Industry
1973-75	Shadow Minister for Labor
Mar 1975-date	Leader of the Liberal Party
Dec 1975-date	Prime Minister

26 May 1977

[Redacted]

(b)(3)