

CIA/CR 178-10468 M.

MICRO  
FILMED  
ONLY(John) Malcolm FRASER**MICROFILMED**  
AUSTRALIAPrime Minister  
(since December 1975)Addressed as:  
Mr. Prime Minister

Leader of the Liberal Party (LP) since March 1975, Malcolm Fraser became Prime Minister in the LP-National Country Party coalition government formed after the December 1975 general election. As leader of the opposition, he had been named caretaker Prime Minister in November, when Australia's Governor General dismissed Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam after a parliamentary impasse over the budget. His coalition government was returned to office in a landslide victory on 10 December 1977. Long active in the LP, Fraser has held several Cabinet posts in previous conservative governments, including those of Minister for Defense (1969-71) and Minister for Education and Science (1971-72).

Fraser was born in Melbourne, 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 Commonwealth Parliament. He holds a master's degree with honors in philosophy, political science and economics from Magdalen College, Oxford. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1955, he has been reelected ever since.

A US Leader Grantee in 1964, Fraser visited Washington most recently in June 1977. He is a wealthy man, owning a house in Canberra and an estate in Victoria, where he raises cattle and sheep. His leisure interests include fishing, photography, and motorcycling. Fraser, 47, is married to the former Tamara Beggs and has four children.

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