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Australian Premier Offers Nixon Advice

Agence France-Presse

CANBERRA, May 30—Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam said today that President Nixon would not have his current difficulties if he "held regular press conferences as I do and if the President were responsible to the Parliament as I am."

His remarks, made in the House of Representatives, came in response to former Prime Minister William McMahon's statement that it would be humiliating for an Australian prime minister to go to Washington without a specific invitation.

In Whitlam's weekly news conference yesterday, he had said he planned to visit the United States without invitation this year, because "the relationship between Australia and the United States . . . [is] so long-standing and intimate" that an official invitation is not necessary.

Opposition parties in Australia claim that Whitlam's Labor Party government has weakened Australia's alliance with the United States. Whitlam, however, says the alliance has been strengthened by ceasing to be "sycophantic." He points out that previous Australian prime ministers have been to Washington without specific invitation.

The Nixon administration has been cool toward Whitlam since the prime minister wrote a protest note to President Nixon last December on the

bombing of North Vietnam. The White House was reportedly displeased as well by Whitlam's recognition of China prior to his formal accession to the prime ministership.

The Australian Foreign Ministry announced later today, however, that a message from Washington indicated that Whitlam's visit would be welcomed and "an arrangement will be made for him to meet Mr. Nixon if their mutual timetables will allow it."

Whitlam has said he plans to pass through Washington on his way to a Commonwealth conference in Ottawa, Canada, near the end of July.