



9 September 1976

Office of the
Leader of the Opposition

Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG

Statement by the Leader of the Opposition
The Hon. E.G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P.

The death of Mao Tse-tung removes one of the giants of modern history. For more than half a century he led one of the great mass movements in history, and for the last 27 years was the revered leader and spiritual embodiment of the world's most populous nation. Few men have been so indissolubly identified with the development of a modern state and with the ideals and aspirations of its people. He guided the destinies of hundreds of millions of people and shaped the philosophy of their nation in a way given to few other men in our time or in any other. The inspiration he generated and the veneration in which he was held were a reflection not only of his political gifts but of his indomitable personality, his extraordinary wisdom, scholarly temperament, and great personal charm. Under his leadership China gained an international respect and an internal stability she had not known for centuries, and her people benefited from the most honest and efficient government China has ever had. My colleagues and I are grieved to learn of Chairman Mao's death and offer our deep sympathy to the Government and people of China.

CANBERRA

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