



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

9 November, 2005

Statement by Ambassador William P. McCormick

Presentation of Credentials, Government House, Wellington

Your Excellency, I have the honor to present to you the Letter of Credence which President George W. Bush has addressed to Her Majesty The Queen, accrediting me as United States Ambassador to New Zealand; I also have the honor to present the Letter of Recall of my predecessor.

As I begin my duties in New Zealand, I am encouraged by the rich legacy of our long relationship. I reflect on the efforts undertaken by each of my predecessors and their counterparts to strengthen our common ties. Such efforts began at least as early as 1838 with James Clendon and have continued ever since.

It is indeed a great honor for me to be asked to carry on that tradition and represent the people and the government of the United States here in New Zealand. I treasure the history of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. But I am also keenly aware that there has never been a more important time for us to work together to meet current challenges, seize opportunities and lay the foundations of our future relationship. I look forward to hearing your government's views on the best ways to do this.

With those views in mind I will do my utmost to build on the contributions of previous ambassadors. I will work energetically with the New Zealand government and with the people of New Zealand to explore new and creative initiatives to deepen and broaden our longstanding and precious friendship.