

SPEECH COMPETITION RESOURCES PAGE 2026

"It is a great thing for us to have such allies as these Americans" – Sir Robert Menzies

Topic: After 75 years, is the Australia-US alliance still in our national interest?

You must refer to Robert Menzies's role in the alliance as well as the broader historical context in which it was formed.

The purpose of this document is to provide links to useful resources that you may wish to reference in your speech regarding Robert Menzies's role in the Australia-US alliance and his attitude towards it.

- Menzies's [Thomas Jefferson Oration](#), 4 July 1963 [Robert Menzies Institute: On This Day](#)
- Menzies's Address to the US House of Representatives [House Congressional Record – 1 August 1950](#) (Sourced from: [PM Transcripts](#))

'Not only do we [Americans and Australians] speak the same language, but to a large extent we have the same thoughts and we act in the same way. We are both equally devoted to the rights of man. We are both unhesitatingly and resolutely opposed to the overthrowing of those rights by any tyrant. Both of us . . . have had a similar history, a history in which industrial skill and power and rising standards of living have followed upon a pioneer age in which foundations were built by brave and adventurous people who knew how to dare the unknown and greet the unseen with a cheer.'

Robert Menzies, Broadcast to the People of the United States of America, 4 July 1941

'If I were asked which was the best single step that had been taken in the time of my Government I think I would say the ANZUS Treaty because the ANZUS Treaty has made the United States of America not perhaps technically, but in substance our ally. In other words, we have a species of alliance. Don't hold me to it as a technical expression we have a species of alliance with the United States. And placed as we are in the world, that is tremendously important.'

Robert Menzies, Press, Radio and Television Conference given at Parliament House, Canberra, 20 January 1966

Extension resource:

- 'Our American Allies' Forgotten People Broadcast [Chapter 14 – Our American Allies – Menzies Virtual Museum](#)