
AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND UNITE ON CHINA'S PACIFIC THREAT

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Rod McQuirk

Australias prime minister said Friday after a meeting with his New Zealand counterpart that the two nations are in lockstep in their policies toward the Pacific islands, where Chinas influence is growing.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern became the first foreign leader to visit Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Australia since he was elected on May 21. Both lead center-left administrations and Ardern described the Albanese Labor Partys election after almost a decade in opposition as a reset in the bilateral relationship.

Australia, New Zealand and the United States have voiced concerns that a new Beijing security pact with the Solomon Islands could result in a Chinese military base being established there. The Solomons and China have both denied that that will happen.

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