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**AUSTRALIA AND UK SIGN DEFENSE AND SECURITY TREATY TO MEET CHALLENGES'**

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AP News (21 March 2024)

Keiran Smith

*Australia and the United Kingdom signed a new defense and security cooperation agreement with the defense ministers of both countries saying it was required to meet contemporary challenges to maintain a global rules-based order.*

The treaty was signed by Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles and his U.K. counterpart Grant Shapps following annual bilateral ministerial defense talks at Parliament House in Canberra on Thursday, as part of the Australia-UK Ministerial (AUKMIN) meeting, which was first held in 2006.

Australias relationship with the UK is dynamic and enduring, Marles said in a written statement Thursday. From the UKs leadership of support for Ukraine and efforts to address the Houthi threat, to increasing contributions in the Pacific and the Indo-Pacific, we continue to work closely together to support a global rules-based order.

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