



PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt, gave a dinner to return hospitality extended to him during his visit to Saigon. The Prime Minister of South Viet Nam, Air Vice-Marshal Ky, was the principal guest.

24TH APRIL, 1966

Mr. Holt said -

I would like to thank you again, Mr. Prime Minister, for the warm welcome which you and members of your Government have given me during my visit. I will leave Viet Nam with a lasting impression of the courtesies and kindnesses which I have received as your guest.

May I say also that this visit has been of great value for the discussions we have conducted together and the information I have gathered at first hand here.

As you know, Mr. Prime Minister, we in Australia feel that the Vietnamese people's resistance to communist aggression is of vital importance to free men everywhere. Until the communists, especially those in Peking, learn that they cannot achieve domination over others by their sinister techniques of infiltration, sabotage and terror, there can be no lasting peace nor personal freedom in Asia or indeed anywhere in the world.

May I also say, Mr. Prime Minister, that the Australian people deeply respect and admire the qualities of courage, fortitude and resolute independence which are part of the national heritage and character of the Vietnamese people.

We are proud, Mr. Prime Minister, to stand with the Vietnamese people in their determined resistance to communist aggression and in their efforts to achieve rising standards of living.

Mr. Prime Minister, Excellencies and gentlemen, I invite you to raise your glasses to the Government and people of Viet Nam, to victory in their struggle for independence, to success in their efforts to achieve a better life in conditions of security, freedom and justice and to the deep bonds of friendship between Australia and Viet Nam which have been strengthened by our association in this common cause.
