

ASIAN TOUR 1967LAOSSPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. HAROLD HOLT,
AT DINNER GIVEN BY THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
AT VIENTIANE2ND APRIL, 1967

Altesses, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs - and that will be the end of my French for tonight! I am not obliged to continue in French, as the Australian Ambassador seems to have performed this function for me already.

First, let me say how happy my wife and I are to be among such a distinguished gathering tonight. Before I put the toast to you, may I say that it is with much regret my wife and I and our party come close to the end of this memorable first visit to Laos.

We have not only greatly enjoyed our visit, we feel we have learned something which will be helpful to us and we hope will be helpful to you. We've been greatly impressed by the number of people we've met, Laotians and others from other countries here, who all seem to manifest a spirit of dedication and enthusiasm for what they are able to accomplish in this country. It is an inspiring experience which we shall take away with us.

It is in the spirit of the warmest friendship, of admiration for your distinguished leadership in His Majesty The King and the Prime Minister and his colleagues of the Cabinet, supported as they are so strongly by the people of Laos, that I ask you to join with me and assist an Australian Embassy and an Australian Prime Minister to honour the toast of His Majesty The King and the Prime Minister and the people of Laos. May our friendship ever deepen and increase.
