

ASIAN TOUR 1967



LAOS

FAREWELL SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. HAROLD HOLT
AT VIENTIANE AIRPORT

3RD APRIL, 1967

Prime Minister, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

There is always a sadness when one parts from good friends, and that is how Mrs. Holt and I and, I am sure, others of my party are feeling this morning.

We came to Laos as a good friend of your country but in the short time that we've been here we have found it sufficiently long to have built some personal friendships which we sincerely hope will endure.

We came to learn something of the problems of your country and to meet your people and see them in their own native land, and this to us has been a richly rewarding experience in knowledge and in a deeper understanding.

We fully appreciate, Prime Minister, the importance to you and, indeed, to your friends around the world, of a neutrality which will be faithfully observed by other countries.

We hope that countries of good will, whatever their general political character may be, will join in the efforts to which Australia will gladly subscribe in promoting the security, the peace, the progress and the prosperity of the people of Laos.

I look forward to welcoming you and Her Highness to Australia, I hope perhaps even later this year, when you can find it convenient to come and visit us. It will give my countrymen great pleasure to join in the expression I now give you of good will from the Australian people. May Laos long endure in peace, with progress and prosperity and security for its people.
