

TAIWAN

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

6TH APRIL, 1967

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of China, the Right Honourable Harold E. Holt, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and Mrs. Holt, accompanied by high-ranking officials of his government, visited the Republic of China from April 4th to April 6th, 1967.

President Chiang Kai-Shek, in expressing his deep appreciation for Prime Minister Holt's visit, considered it to be a significant milestone in the history of the friendly relations between the Republic of China and Australia. Prime Minister Holt, on his part, thanked President Chiang, Vice President and concurrently Prime Minister Yen Chia-Kan and the Government and people of the Republic of China for the warm hospitality accorded to him, to Mrs. Holt and to the members of his party during the visit.

During his stay in the Republic of China, the Prime Minister had the opportunity of holding a series of frank and free discussions with President Chiang, Vice President and concurrently Prime Minister Yen and other Chinese Government leaders on the world situation, particularly the situation in Asia and the Pacific and other matters of common interest to the two countries.

President Chiang and Prime Minister Holt reaffirmed the long-standing friendship between the Republic of China and Australia and pledged to further strengthen their co-operation in the common effort to maintain peace and security in the basis of freedom and justice and to promote the economic prosperity of this area.

President Chiang expressed the admiration of the Government and people of the Republic of China for the stand which Australia has taken in Vietnam and the significant contribution Australia has made and is still making to the fighting in Vietnam against communist aggression. The two leaders are agreed that peace, like freedom, is indivisible and that inasmuch as Hanoi has repeatedly refused to negotiate for peace, no end to the war in Vietnam is at present in sight and, therefore, such joint effort as has been made to resist communist aggression in Vietnam should be continued.

Prime Minister Holt also had the opportunity of visiting the industrial centres and harbour facilities of the Republic of China. He was greatly impressed by the vitality of the people, the tremendous progress that has been made in the field of economic development and the political stability that the country enjoys under the inspiring leadership of President Chiang.

President Chiang and Prime Minister Holt believe that since Asia has now become the crucial area of resistance to communist aggression, it is essential that the two countries should do their utmost to promote unity among free nations everywhere and among member nations of the Asian and Pacific Council in particular, so that the threat to world peace posed by militant communism on the Chinese Mainland and elsewhere in Asia can be eliminated and conditions for the promotion of the economic prosperity and social well-being for all the peoples of this area established.
