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STATE VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF ITALY
TO AUSTRALIA : 25 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER,
1967

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of the Commonwealth of Australia, the President of the Republic of Italy, the Honourable Giuseppe Saragat, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Amintore Fanfani, paid a State visit to Australia from 25 September until 1 October, 1967, staying in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney.

In Canberra, President Saragat was received by the Governor-General, Lord Casey, and had meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt, other members of the Australian Government, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Gough Whitlam.

The Italian President was Guest of Honour at a dinner given by the Governor-General and at a State function at Parliament House, at which the President delivered an address. The President was host at a dinner at the Italian Embassy.

In Melbourne and Sydney, the President attended functions given by the State Governors and was tendered Civic Receptions at the Town Halls of both cities. While in Melbourne, the President visited the Royal Agricultural Show. In both capitals, the President addressed large gatherings of the Italian communities, bringing them the greetings of Italy.

The Italian Foreign Minister, Mr Fanfani, had political talks with the Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr Hasluck, and also had a meeting with senior members of the Australian Cabinet. Major international problems of the moment were reviewed in an atmosphere of frank cordiality.

In the course of these conversations, the Italian and Australian leaders reviewed problems concerning the role of the United Nations in the peaceful solution of international disputes in accordance with the Charter, co-operation in economic and social fields, and assistance to developing countries. Emphasis was placed on the responsibility of the industrialized countries to assist developing countries and to encourage a more satisfactory balance in technological progress. Both parties reaffirmed their common aim to continue endeavours towards the progressive realization of disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear arms.

Mr Fanfani outlined general aspects of action being taken by the Italian Government towards the maintenance of peace and security within the framework of its alliances and towards the realization of European unity. He also described Italian viewpoints on the process of European integration, together with the prospects of Britain's entering into the European Economic Community.

Mr Hasluck described the Australian Government's position in relation to South-East Asia and the Pacific, and to the tensions existing in that area.

Developments in Viet Nam were the subject of an exchange of views, particular attention being given to the present situation in South Viet Nam. The importance of early progress towards any possible negotiations for a just and peaceful solution was also considered. It was agreed that such a solution might be sought on the basis of the Geneva Agreements and with

the possible assistance, direct or indirect, of the United Nations.

Special consideration was given to the question of Italian migration to Australia. The substantial contribution made by Italian migrants to the development of Australia's economy and population was highly appreciated by the Australian Government. Both countries indicated their desire that co-operation in this field between Italy and Australia should continue and develop still further in the best possible conditions. Therefore the two Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Minister for Immigration signed an agreement on migration and exchanged notes on an arrangement for assisted migration. The agreement, which covers a wide field, provides a continuing basis for Italian migrants to participate in and to benefit substantially from Australia's future development.

The importance of trade between the two countries was emphasised in the course of the talks. It was recognised that trade exchanges between the countries have been developing steadily and that there would be great value in encouraging further improvement of trade and economic relations. In this connection a Memorandum of Understanding, governing the health requirements for the importation of Australian meat into Italy, was initialled. The possibility of co-operation in the industrial field was also raised.

It was noted with satisfaction that there is a growing interest in Australia in the Italian language and culture, and both parties were in agreement on the value of increased collaboration in matters of science and culture.

The proposal of the Australian Government to establish a Consulate-General in Milan was welcomed on the Italian part.

The Italian and Australian Ministers agreed that the exchange of views had offered an excellent occasion to consolidate the friendship and co-operation existing between Australia and Italy, and it was felt that it would prove of mutual benefit to increase contact at all levels between the representatives of the two countries.

A formal invitation to visit Italy at a mutually convenient time was extended to the Prime Minister and the Minister for External Affairs, and was cordially accepted.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.
CANBERRA.
30th September, 1967.