

FOR PRESS :



MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTERS  
OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA  
JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Mr Holyoake and Mr Holt have had several discussions in Canberra during the past two days on matters of common interest. The New Zealand Minister for Defence (Mr Thomson) and Australian Ministers participated. New Zealand and Australian officials were also present. These talks were supplemented by separate discussions among the officials.

Both Mr Holyoake and Mr Holt had indicated in statements before the meeting that they did not see their discussions as leading up to any immediate decisions. The talks form part of the process of regular and continuous consultations between the New Zealand and Australian Governments.

The talks ranged over a wide field. The major questions discussed were in the areas of defence and foreign policy. The two Governments are pursuing common objectives and the problems they face are similar.

Consequent on the British Government's announcement of a progressive reduction in forces in South East Asia, both the New Zealand and Australian Governments are in process of reviewing their respective defence arrangements. The discussions have been most useful. As both Mr Holyoake and Mr Holt have previously stated, it will be necessary to consult other interested governments.

Both countries have forces engaged and operating together in Viet Nam. Both countries are also giving economic and other civil assistance in Viet Nam. The Viet Nam situation and the prospects for peaceful settlement there are major preoccupations of both Governments and the opportunity to consult has been valuable.

Mr Holyoake and the Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr McEwen, discussed trade relations between Australia and New Zealand, including the New Zealand/Australia Free Trade Agreement.

All the talks were held in a most friendly and co-operative atmosphere. Mr Holyoake's visit to Canberra was welcomed by the Australian Prime Minister as an opportunity for the Australian Government to ascertain at first hand the views of the New Zealand Government on matters which concern both countries. Mr Holyoake also saw the talks as reflecting the close relations between the two Governments - which are resolved to continue to work closely together.

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,  
CANBERRA,  
4TH OCTOBER, 1967.