

FOR PRESS:



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VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt

The Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Eisaku Sato, will this week begin an official visit to Australia. Mr Eisaku Sato, accompanied by Mrs Sato and by an official party of 26 persons, will arrive at Canberra at 8.10 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11.

Mr Sato is paying a goodwill and courtesy visit to Australia which will further the very good relations that already exist between the two countries, not only in their growing trade and commerce but through their increasing co-operation at the political level. Mr Sato will be able to exchange views with leaders of the Australian Government on matters affecting the common interests of each country, particularly the situation in South-East Asia, whose stability and peaceful development are of fundamental importance to both countries. He will have as well an opportunity to see for himself at first hand something of Australia's economic, social and cultural development.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

The Prime Minister and Mr Sato will be welcomed at the RAAF Base, Fairbairn by the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt and Mrs Holt, and by representatives of government departments and the Japanese Embassy.

Mr Sato is expected to make a short statement at the airport but will not hold a press conference there.

On Thursday, October 12, Mr Sato will lay a wreath at the Australian War Memorial at 9.30 a.m. and will then call on the Governor-General, Lord Casey at Government House at 10.00 a.m.

At 10.45 a.m., Mr Sato calls on the Prime Minister, Mr Holt and at 11.00 a.m. will begin talks with Cabinet Ministers.

At 12.45 p.m., Mr Sato will attend a Government Luncheon at Parliament House. Mrs Sato will be entertained to lunch at The Lodge by Mrs Zara Holt.

In the afternoon, the Japanese Prime Minister will visit the Australian National University where he will be met by the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Leonard Huxley, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Sir John Crawford, and other members of the professorial staff.

At 4.30 p.m., Mr Sato will give a Press Conference at the Hotel Canberra, after which he will attend a reception given by the Japanese Ambassador to Australia, Mr Fumihiko Kai.

At night, Mr and Mrs Sato will dine at Government House as the guests of the Governor-General and The Lady Casey.

The following day, Friday, October 13, the Prime Minister and Mrs Sato and party will leave Fairbairn for Melbourne at 9.30 a.m.

Their stay in Victoria will be for about five hours during which time Mr and Mrs Sato will be greeted by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor R. T. A. Talbot, call on the Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe, attend a luncheon given by the State Government and meet members of the Japanese community.

On Friday afternoon at 3.45 p.m., Mr and Mrs Sato and party will fly to Sydney where in the evening they will attend a dinner given by the State Government.

Saturday October 14, the final day of the visit, begins with a meeting with members of the Japanese community at the Wentworth Hotel at 9.30 a.m.

Following a call on the Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, Mr and Mrs Sato will leave for Sydney airport.

The Japanese Prime Minister and his party will leave for New Zealand at 11.00 a.m.

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CANBERRA  
9th October, 1967.