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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

18 JUNE 1976

### DEATH OF LORD CASEY

IT WAS WITH DEEP AND PERSONAL REGRET THAT I LEARNT TODAY OF THE DEATH OF LORD CASEY IN MELBOURNE. HE WAS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S GREAT STATESMEN. HE NOT ONLY SERVED HIS COUNTRY ABLY IN MANY CAPACITIES, BUT ALSO THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH WITH EQUAL DISTINCTION. HE WAS HELD IN HIGH REGARD AND RESPECT AROUND THE WORLD.

HE BROUGHT TO THE HIGH OFFICES THAT HE HELD, A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND DEDICATION, IDEALISM, AND INTEGRITY. HE BROUGHT A QUIET SENSE OF DIGNITY TO THE AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL ARENA. BOTH AUSTRALIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH ARE THE POORER BY HIS DEPARTURE FROM PUBLIC OFFICE.

R.G. CASEY, BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, BEGAN AUSTRALIA'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION ABROAD. LATER, IT WAS VERY MUCH HIS OWN PERSONAL INITIATIVE THAT LED TO OUR CLOSE AND WARM LINKS WITH MANY OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA.

THE INITIATIVES OF LORD CASEY IN THESE DIRECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY OR ADEQUATELY RECOGNISED. HE WAS A MODEST MAN, AND IT WAS LEFT TO OTHERS TO POINT TO HIS ACHIEVEMENTS, AND TO THE GROUND WORK THAT HE, AS MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SO ABLY LAID.