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BEFORE P.M. 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1959, P.M. No. 36/1959

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYA

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, RT. HON. R.G. MENZIES

The Prime Minister announced today that the Prime Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, had accepted an invitation to visit Australia between 30th October and 14th November of this year. He would have discussions with the Australian Cabinet in Canberra and fulfil a number of important engagements. He would attend the opening of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting in Canberra and in the course of his stay there would also open the new offices and residence of the High Commissioner for Malaya. He would also visit some Australian States. Mr. Menzies said that he greatly looked forward to seeing Tunku Abdul Rahman who would be most welcome in Australia.

Mr. Menzies added that he would visit Indonesia from about 2nd to 7th December. After that he would go on to visit Malaya between 7th and 12th December. He will be accompanied by Dame Pattie Menzies. He would have discussions with Government leaders in Indonesia and Malaya as well as seeing as much as he could of both countries which were important neighbours of Australia. Mr. Menzies said that his forthcoming journey would enable him to have firsthand contact with Indonesia which he had previously visited only for a very short time during the recent war. It had been necessary to defer the plans which he had made for going there in 1956. It would also be his first visit to Malaya since that country achieved its independence in 1957.

Mr. Menzies said that he had not set down any particular subjects for discussion with the Indonesian and Malayan Prime Ministers nor had they proposed any to him. He greatly appreciated both invitations he had received and he regarded the visits as falling into the general pattern he had been following of extending his personal contacts with the leaders of South and South-East Asian States.

CANBERRA.
28TH SEPTEMBER, 1959.