

CANCELLATION OF OVERSEAS VISIT BY SENATOR
THE HON. W.H. SPOONER, M.M.

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

A visit overseas this month by the Minister for National Development, Senator Spooner, had been cancelled, the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, said today.

Mr. Menzies was commenting on a news item cabled from Bangkok that Senator Spooner might visit Thailand later this month.

Mr. Menzies said: "Several South East Asian countries have extended invitations to the Australian Government for a senior Australian Minister to visit them.

"Arrangements were well advanced for Senator Spooner to visit these countries when, unfortunately, he had to undergo a minor operation.

"Although he has now been able to resume duties here, his medical advisers have told him that it would be unwise for him to accept the strain of an overseas tour.

"Accordingly, he has had to cancel the arrangements.

"Senator Spooner and the Government much regret the cancellation and the loss of this opportunity to extend Australia's friendship with these countries."

CANBERRA,
6th November, 1959.