

The Australian people are looking forward with great pleasure to the opportunity which will shortly be given them to welcome to their shores Their Majesties King Phumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

This will be the first occasion on which a reigning monarch of a foreign country has visited us. How appropriate it is that the Royal Visitor should come from a country with which Australia has strong ties through the South East Asia Treaty Organisation and the still stronger ties of a warm and abiding friendship.

Their Majesties will travel far and wide in Australia and I know that wherever they go they are destined to receive a welcome which will come from the hearts of the Australian people.

R. G. MENZIES.

16th August, 1962.