

DEPARTURE OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF  
THAILAND

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister and the Minister  
for National Development, Senator W.H. Spooner, M.M.

The King and Queen of Thailand's Australian tour had strengthened the bond of friendship and understanding between the two countries, the Acting Prime Minister, Senator Spooner, said tonight.

He was speaking on the eve of the Thai Royal couple's departure for home. They are due to leave Perth by air for Bangkok tomorrow morning (Mon; 8 a.m. Western Australian time).

Senator Spooner said the tour had been an unqualified success from everybody's point of view.

"We all feel that we have been hosts to a Royal couple whose qualities are such as to endear them to the Australian in every walk of life," he said.

"As a result of the tour, Australians have learned more about the Thai people, and have been inspired with a desire to learn even more.

"In particular, the visit of Their Majesties has brought Thailand closer to the parents and families of those Australian servicemen now serving over there", the Acting Prime Minister said.

"The King and Queen have made a significant contribution towards strengthening the links that bind our two countries. We are partners in S.E.A.T.O. With air travel, we are virtually next door neighbours in S.E. Asia.

"It can do nothing but good that we are now getting to know one another better. Already there are many Thai students in this country. They have been welcome and they will always be welcome."

Senator Spooner, with Mrs. Spooner, will farewell the Royal couple at Perth airport tomorrow morning.

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