

EMBARGO : NOT TO BE PUBLISHED, BROADCAST OR TELECAST BEFORE
8 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

BROADCAST NO. 6

BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON.
SIR ROBERT MENZIES, OVER ABC NATIONAL STATIONS
AT 8 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1963.

D E F E N C E

The purpose of a foreign policy is to enter into arrangements for friendship and the common defence of freedom and security; to keep the peace without surrender of vital principles, without appeasement or retreat.

In this world, bedevilled by governments which use threats of violence, defence has, for democratic countries, ceased to be a purely local affair. Australian defence cannot be secured by coastline conceptions. Here, Labour policies are dangerous. The Leader of the Opposition, struggling to hold a chance 1961 victory in Cowper, normally a Country Party stronghold, said, at Grafton, that he would station portion of a battle-group of the Australian Regular Army at or near Grafton!

His advice on this matter was not military. If such promises were pursued in all doubtful seats, the whole concept of Australian military preparations would be destroyed.

Our policy is based upon two considerations. First, we must equip ourselves for close co-operation with our allies in this part of the world, where dangers are great, and common action is essential. We must have their help in times of difficulty, and they must have ours. To prepare to defend Australia purely on Australian territory, would assume that our allies had been defeated.

The second consideration is that, having regard to the first, we should create and equip forces, quickly available, possessed of great fire power and rapid mobility, and of the highest quality.

This is why we are creating a navy which, while within our capacity, will be modern, mobile and effective; with the missile-bearing destroyers, submarines, carriers, aircraft, and escort vessels.

In the Army, we aim at high training, modern equipment, adequate air support, with a first-class scientific backing.

In the Air Force, we already have the best transport planes in the world, the Mirage fighter, the best in the world, and a Bomber replacement for the Canberra which, at a relatively early date, will give us, in world terms, unsurpassed strike and reconnaissance power.

We cannot equal the great powers. But we can aim at possessing forces of the highest quality and capable of co-operating effectively with our friends.

No party political considerations can be allowed to stand in the way of giving effect to this realistic policy.

You will decide, for a vital period of time - whether you support this concept, and this essential national policy.
