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7.15 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER.

BROADCAST NO. 2 - SENATE ELECTION

BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON.
SIR ROBERT MENZIES, OVER ABC NATIONAL STATIONS
IN ALL STATES AT 7.15 P.M. ON THURSDAY,
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The Labour Party has challenged the Government on Defence Policy. It has made it the issue in the Senate Election.

So I ask: "What is the policy of the Labour Party on foreign policy and defence?"

No Party can have a foreign policy or a defence policy unless it has certain basic ideas. Once these basic ideas are established, details of application will fall into place.

To be opposed to any form of compulsory service is not a Defence Policy, because it is negative. The Labour Party must go further.

Briefly, let me look at two crucial matters.

The first is our relationship to our allies, in ANZUS and SEATO. Under certain circumstances, we have treaty rights to secure their help. Rights, of course, involve obligations. We are bound to help if we want to be helped. We have forces in Thailand, in Malaysia, in South Vietnam. Why? Because eleven million Australians in the line of advance of aggressive Communist China cannot defend our country alone. We must have partners, and be active partners ourselves.

What is Labour's basic policy on this great matter? Nobody knows. Their Left-Wingers - growing in influence - say that we ought not to have forces overseas, which means, if you think of it, that we ought to renounce our treaties.

I know that moderate Labour men do not want so suicidal a policy. But will they prevail?

After all, they are committed to the strange idea that nuclear weapons ought not to be brought into or used from the Southern Hemisphere - an idea that would mean that America could not use nuclear weapons in our defence in a nuclear war, while leaving the new nuclear power, Red China, free to operate from North of the Equator.

The other crucial matter is in reality involved in the first.

Does the Labour Party have a garrison conception of Australian defence, abandoning our idea of "defence in depth?" We believe in keeping the enemy as far away as possible, by strengthening those South-East Asian nations which are opposed to Communism.

Only a few weeks ago, Dr. Cairns, who is the Opposition's most consistent spokesman on these matters, propounded, without dissent from his leaders, an astonishing proposition.

He said :

"I think the general policy of containment is a sound policy, but the question is: Where? I think here is where serious mistakes have been made. I do not think proper consideration has been given to where is the best strategic point to make this containment. I think as far as the Pacific is concerned it is clear that it is somewhere along the 5,500 mile line from Kamchatka, north of Japan, to say Darwin in the south and then to the east and the west. This is, I believe, the first line of defence in this policy of containment."

If you look at the map, you will see that this abandons the whole of South-East Asia. It is the abandonment of defence in depth, of our treaty obligations. It is pure isolationism. So I repeat: What is the policy of Labour? Whatever it is or may turn out to be, you are being asked by our opponents to vote for it on December 5th!
