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FOR PRESS

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
VISIT TO CANBERRA BY MR. CABOT LODGE

I have had with my senior Ministerial colleagues very valuable discussions this afternoon on the subject of Vietnam with the United States Special Ambassador, Mr. Cabot Lodge.

Mr. Lodge is visiting Canberra at the instance of the President of the United States, and has brought with him the views of the President and the Administration; to these he has added his own detailed and first-hand knowledge of the situation in Vietnam. As part of the exchange of views sought by Mr. Lodge, the Australian Ministers outlined our assessment of the situation.

The discussions have provided a valuable addition to our common understanding and have contributed to the already very great degree of agreement between Australia and the United States on the question of the checking of aggression in Vietnam.

Mr. Lodge conveyed the President's appreciation of the contribution which Australia has made in the economic and defence fields in South Vietnam.

CANBERRA  
20th April, 1965: