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BRITISH DEFENCE REVIEW

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

I am pleased to see the affirmation in the White Paper of the British Government's belief that Britain should continue to maintain considerable strength in the Far East and South East Asia.

In particular, I welcome its recognition of the importance of the retention of the Singapore and Malaysian military bases.

The Australian Government believes that preservation of the defence situation in the South East Asian area requires common effort.

Consultations will continue on various matters related to our mutual co-operation, including the exchange of information at military level on the question of military facilities in Australia in certain contingencies.

To a very large degree, the principles relating to this area given explanation in the White Paper were discussed and taken into account at the time of the visit of Mr. Healey, the British Defence Minister.

CANBERRA,
23rd February, 1966.