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GOVERNMENT PARTIES UNANIMOUS
ON VIETNAM POLICY

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

The Government Parties devoted a major part of their available time at their regular Joint Party Meeting today to a discussion of criticisms by Australian Labour Party Members and others of Australian participation in military activities in South Vietnam and the inclusion of national service troops in the military task force to be despatched to that country.

I was requested by the meeting to state publicly that members of the Government Parties had re-affirmed their unanimous support for the decisions of the Government, both on the desirability of Australia's continued assistance to South Vietnam in its resistance to Communist aggression and the necessity for the inclusion of national servicemen in regular Army units to provide the most effective military force as required in Vietnam and elsewhere.

CANBERRA
23rd March, 1966.