



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
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SURGICAL TEAM NURSES IN VIET NAM

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr Hasluck, today issued the following statement about arrangements being made for the departure of four nurses from the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne to join the Australian Surgical Team at Bien Hoa in Viet Nam.

"On 31st December, 1965, I announced the departure for Viet Nam of a nine-member surgical team sponsored by the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. This is the second Australian Surgical Team to be established in Viet Nam under our SEATO Aid Programme. The first team which was from the Royal Melbourne Hospital was based at Long Xuyen some 80 miles south-west of Saigon and was succeeded last October by a team from St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.

Four nurses will be leaving on Sunday, 1st May (flight BA725) to join the Bien Hoa team. They are Miss Miriam Steer, Miss Rosalie Moy, Miss Josephine Champion, and Miss Carolyn Milne. The nurses are taking the place of the four nurses who were original members of the first Alfred Hospital Surgical Team, Miss Mary Rigg, Miss Heather Beveridge, Miss Daphne Amos, and Miss Barbara Phillips, who are returning to Australia, after four months in Viet Nam, on 11th May (flight BA712). The other girl serving with the team, Miss Kathleen Hirst, the radiographer, has volunteered to stay at Bien Hoa for a second term.

The Surgical Team at Bien Hoa, which has a population of 70,000 and attracts patients from the surrounding areas, many of whom are civilian war casualties, is meeting an acute need for trained surgical personnel in Viet Nam and we are glad to be in a position under our SEATO Aid arrangements to be able to help the people of the Bien Hoa Province in this way.

I wish to thank the authorities and the surgeons, doctors and nurses of the Alfred Hospital for the willingness with which they have made their services available to make this contribution to the well-being of the Vietnamese people."