

FOR PRESS:

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VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Harold Holt.

I shall be leaving Australia for a short visit to the United States and Britain after opening the South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) Conference in Canberra on Monday, June 27.

During my visit I shall have talks with President Johnson, the Vice-President, Mr. Humphrey, the Secretary of State for Defense, Mr. McNamara, and other senior members of the United States Administration. In Britain, I shall be having talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson, with Mr. Callaghan, Chancellor of the Exchequer and other senior Ministers.

During the talks in both the United States and Britain, I will be discussing major problems now current in the fields of foreign affairs, development and defence. However there are no specific issues which require settling on this occasion, and the purpose of the visit is to make personal contact with the leaders of government in both centres in continuation of the process of close and friendly consultation which we have established with them.

I shall return to Australia in time to participate in Cabinet's Budget discussions, which will be held during the week commencing Monday, July 18.

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Further Details

The Prime Minister's visit follows invitations which he has received from both President Johnson and the British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson.

During his time in Washington he will see President Johnson, Mr. Humphrey, Vice-President, Mr. McNamara, the Secretary of State for Defense, and Mr. George Ball, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Rusk will be in Australia at the SEATO Meetings). The Prime Minister also hopes to be able to renew association with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Commerce, but not for the negotiation of any particular business. He will be addressing the National Press Club at a luncheon in Washington on Thursday, June 30, and a meeting of the Australian/American Association in New York on Tuesday, July 5.

While the Prime Minister is in London he will have an audience with The Queen on Thursday, July 7, and will be seeing the British Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson, on Monday, July 11. He will also be having discussions with Mr. Callaghan, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Bottomley, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, and other senior Ministers. He will be addressing a meeting of the Australia Club on Tuesday, July 12.

Mrs. Holt will accompany the Prime Minister on his visit.

During his visit to Washington, the Prime Minister will be assisted by the Australian Ambassador, Mr. J. K. Waller, and in London by the Australian High Commissioner, Sir Alexander Downer.

Official advisers to the Prime Minister during his visit will be -

Sir John Bunting (Secretary, Prime Minister's Department)

Sir Laurence McIntyre (Deputy Secretary, Department of
External Affairs)

Mr. G. E. Blakers (Deputy Secretary, Department of Defence)

Mr. P. H. Bailey (Prime Minister's Department)

Mr. P. C. J. Curtis (Department of External Affairs)

Mr. J. H. Scholtens (Prime Minister's Department)

Two members of the Prime Minister's personal staff (his Private Secretary, Miss P. De Lacy, and his Press Secretary Mr. A. Eggleton) will also accompany the Prime Minister. Mr. M. W. O'Donnell will be available as adviser in both Washington and London.

CANBERRA

17th June 1966.