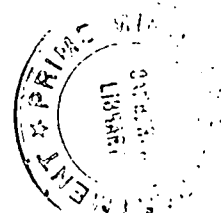


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MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Holt and Mr. Holyoake met at Parliament House this morning, this being their first meeting as Prime Ministers.

After talks lasting more than two hours, they lunched together with the New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr. Hazlett.

Most of the discussion between the Prime Ministers was in the defence and foreign policy field. They went over some of the matters which will be engaging the SEATO Council during the week, but concentrated rather more on a joint consideration of the developments and the outlook in South-East Asia as viewed from Australia and New Zealand. Viet Nam and Indonesia were included in this survey. The Prime Ministers discussed not only the joint military operations in which Australia and New Zealand are engaged, but also the economic advancement of the area which they each recognise as being of first importance to the future stability and peace of Asia. They discussed also Mr. Holt's recent visit to South Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, and the impressions which Mr. Holt drew from it.

Britain's defence position in South-East Asia came into the discussion. There was agreement by the Prime Ministers that a firm, continuing British presence is important, not only in terms of its defence significance, but in terms of the advantages which it will have for long term world stability and for Britain's own world role.

They discussed Commonwealth affairs in the light of the Prime Ministers' Conference under consideration for later this year.

Brief discussions occurred also in the context of the increasingly close trade relations developing out of the New Zealand/Australia Free Trade Area arrangements.

The Prime Ministers also covered the current economic situation in their respective countries.

CANBERRA,
26th June, 1966

Later this afternoon, Mr. Holt will receive brief official calls from the Foreign Ministers of the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. They will call on him individually.

A. EGGLETON
Press Secretary to Prime Minister.
26/6/66