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U.S. PRESIDENT'S TRIBUTE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt, today released the text of a message he has received from President Johnson. The message reads :-

"The courage of Australian men and the skill of Australian arms have once again been demonstrated on the field of battle.

Yesterday's engagement evokes the admiration of all who treasure bravery and the gratitude of all who prize the just cause for which we fight in Viet Nam.

We mourn with you those brave men who were lost and pray for the quick recovery of those who were wounded.

Please extend my commendation to the courageous officers and men of the Australian forces in Viet Nam.

When you were here, I said: 'When a fight comes looking for you, it is good to have Australians standing and fighting by your side.'

The Viet Cong know today better than before what I meant.

With warm personal regards.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON."

CANBERRA,
23rd August, 1966.