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CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ON VIET NAM

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

The Australian Government warmly commends the proposal put forward by President Marcos of the Philippines, in consultation with the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Thailand. It appreciates the offer by President Marcos to make arrangements for the conference to be held in the Philippines.

Since this is a conference of Heads of Government whose forces are joined in resisting Communist aggression in South Viet Nam, there will naturally be an assessment of the military situation. But also the Australian Government sees the conference as one which will look towards the attainment of a just and enduring peace, and towards the further development of programmes of civil aid and economic reconstruction in South Viet Nam, and in the area generally, which would buttress freedom and progress.

With each of these aspects coming under discussion, the Australian Government sees great merit and promise in the proposal. I will be attending the conference and I am looking forward to joining in consultations with the Heads of allied Governments.

CANBERRA,
27th September, 1966.