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SIR ALAN WATT ARTICLE

Comment by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

I thought highly of Sir Alan Watt during his long and distinguished period with the Government. Before commenting on his article in any detail, I would like to read the full text.

This much seems clear from the Press reports, that the techniques of a discreet and cautious diplomatist are not necessarily the same as those to be employed by the political leader who must determine policy and make it widely known.

From the press extracts that I have seen, it does seem that Sir Alan has fallen into the error of assuming that politicians are less conscious of the consequences of their statements than my own experience suggests them to be.

CANBERRA,
3rd October, 1966.