

RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR HAROLD HOLT,
AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA.

6TH OCTOBER, 1966.

MR HOLT: It gives me particular pleasure to be able to announce that President Johnson has found it possible to pay a visit to Australia en route to the Conference at Manila. As you will know, I have been pressing President Johnson ever since I saw him in Washington earlier in the year to make a visit to Australia, and when I found that he would be in this general neighbourhood for the Manila Conference, I pressed that invitation again, and it is very gratifying to find that he has been able to make the arrangements necessary to visit this country. I am sure there will be value from the visit and in a sense it is quite an historic visit in that it will be the first visit made by an American President during his period of office. Here, already, we have a good dividend out of the Manila Conference. It was the fact of the Conference which has brought him to this area, and being in the area, he is making it possible for himself to see something of the countries in which he finds a growing American interest.

Q. Sir, can you tell us the cities he may visit while he is here in the country?

MR HOLT: I understand that in Australia he will hope to visit Melbourne where he spent so many happy hours in war-time during his service out in the Pacific. He would certainly be expected to pay a visit to Sydney, and of course we would plan for an official visit to Canberra where I hope an appropriate Parliamentary occasion would be staged.

Q. Can you tell us the dates, please Prime Minister?

MR HOLT: It is planned that he will arrive here on the 20th and leave on the evening of the 22nd.
