

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.15 P.M. 10TH NOVEMBER, 1966

NATIONAL BROADCAST NO. 1

BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. HAROLD HOLT

Security is the theme of this broadcast - security not only for the nation, but for the individual.

Nationalsecurity is linked with the adequacy of our defence forces and the strength of our alliances.

Security for the individual depends on how successfully the economy is conducted and how justly the national wealth is distributed.

As to national security. We have a small population living in a vast continent. We cannot hope to do by ourselves alone all that is necessary to preserve that security. This is so even if we tried to turn Australia into an isolated fortress and abandoned vigorous development.

We have fortified ourselves by joining with others in building a mutual security system through treaties such as SEATO and ANZUS.

The Labor Party says that Australia should withdraw its forces from South Vietnam. They condemn the participation there of national servicemen who are enabling us to maintain our Regular Army Units in Australia and overseas at the strengths recommended by our military advisers.

Under the ANZUS Treaty, the United States, New Zealand and ourselves have undertaken to resist aggression directed against any one of us. You can form your own judgment as to how much value would remain in this Treaty if Australia were to walk out on these friends and allies. They would never have the same confidence in Australia again. I am sure the effect on America, in particular, would be most destructive. Even if the Treaty continued in a formal sense, we could never again place the same reliance on it for our safety.

These matters are sure to be discussed extensively at my public meetings, so I should like to deal now with some aspects of domestic security which concern every household. You have a vested interest in the strength and welfare of Australia. An expanding Australia with a strong, soundly-based economy, should be capable of consistently giving full employment to its people. This contributes greatly to your security.

Regular employment and good wages are basic to the security of the family. Australia has a record in this respect unsurpassed amongst the free peoples of the world. There has been only one month in the seventeen years in which we have been in office when registrations for employment touched three per cent.

For most of our period of office, the registrations have hovered about one per cent. with job vacancies plentiful. We have successfully absorbed additions to the workforce from migration and our own natural increase. This has helped us to become a nation of home owners with the highest percentage of home ownership anywhere recorded.

Only the United States and Canada surpass us in the percentage of motor vehicles to the population.

There are other important indicators of the solid base to the security of the individual citizen. Our people hold more than seven and a half million life insurance policies, having a total value of more than fifteen thousand million dollars. At the end of August they held \$5,356 million in the Savings Banks, and had, at the end of September, more than \$5,000 million on deposit with the Trading Banks. These figures spell continuing prosperity, and in no country is that prosperity more widely shared.

It would be an act of national folly to hand over to a socialist party a country so soundly conducted and which has enjoyed these fruits of a free enterprise philosophy; and to hand over to a socialist party so demonstrably incapable of governing itself that it is clearly incapable of effectively governing the nation.

(This talk will be broadcast by the A.B.C. Network at 7.15 p.m., Thursday, 10th November. It is the first of six five minute broadcasts to be made by Mr. Holt during the election campaign. The broadcasts will be heard in all States.)