

VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

I shall be in New Zealand at the invitation of the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. Keith Holyoake, from Thursday, February 2 until Wednesday, February 8.

The friendship between New Zealand and Australia is close and warm. It has been strengthened by our common background of British democracy and parliamentary institutions. We have been comrades in the cause of freedom and resistance to aggression in two World Wars and, in more recent years, in Korea, Malaysia and Viet Nam. We have many mutual interests in trade, Commonwealth co-operation and in the security and economic progress of South-East Asia and the Pacific. The word ANZAC - forged at Gallipoli - has a special emotional and historic significance for Australia and New Zealand. There is a personal friendship between Mr. Holyoake and myself which appropriately reflects the relationship between our two countries.

This will be my second visit to New Zealand. The first was made in 1950 when I led the Australian Delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. I look forward to my discussions with Mr. Holyoake and members of his Cabinet, also many other New Zealanders with whom I shall be coming in contact. I welcome the opportunity to see something of the considerable developments which are taking place in New Zealand in many directions.

CANBERRA,
10th January, 1967.

BACKGROUND :

The last visit by an Australian Prime Minister to New Zealand was in 1954 by Sir Robert Menzies. Mr. Holyoake was in Australia last June for meetings of the SEATO Council.

Mr. Holt, while in New Zealand for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference of 1950, toured the North Island extensively but has never been previously to the South Island. His itinerary, on this occasion, will take him to Wellington only in the North Island but to several points of interest in the South Island.

Mr. Holt will depart from Sydney on Thursday, February 2, and will arrive at Wellington Airport towards the end of the afternoon. Friday will be spent in discussions with New Zealand Ministers, Saturday and Sunday in attending various functions in Wellington and in travelling to Christchurch. During the remainder of the visit, the Prime Minister will be visiting places in the South Island, and will leave Christchurch for Sydney during the afternoon of Wednesday, February 8.

Mr. Holt will be accompanied by Mrs. Holt. With the Prime Minister will travel also his Private Secretary, his Press Secretary and a member of the Prime Minister's Department.
