

FOR PRESS :

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CIVIL AID FOR VIET NAM

The Prime Minister, Mr. Holt, today spoke with the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Hasluck and Mr. Askin and Sir Henry Bolte about possible aid for Viet Nam from New South Wales and Victoria.

As a result of today's talks with Mr. Hasluck, arrangements will be made for a First Assistant Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, Mr. K.C.O. Shann, to meet the New South Wales Minister for Conservation, Mr. J.G. Beale, to discuss what New South Wales might have in mind with regard to technical aid.

At Avalon this morning, Sir Henry Bolte indicated to Mr. Holt Victoria's interest in whatever might be done along these lines.

The Federal Cabinet will have before it a paper on civil aid for Viet Nam at its next meeting on Wednesday week.

CANBERRA,
23rd January, 1967.

NOTE : This is not a Prime Ministerial statement. You could use it as a statement of fact or attribute it to a spokesman or to me.

By the way, I notice that a lunch-time radio news bulletin quoted the Prime Minister as describing the Ky visit as an "unqualified success". What he in fact said was that the visit had served the common purposes of the two countries very well, and went on to describe why the visit had been a success. At no time did he use the word "unqualified".

A. EGGLETON
Press Secretary to the Prime Minister