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MR. HOLT'S FIRST YEAR AS PRIME MINISTER

From press enquiries received today, it seems that some of you are interested in facts and figures to background a story about Mr. Holt's first year as Prime Minister (based on the anniversary of the swearing-in of the First Holt Ministry on Australia Day last year).

For those preparing an item on this subject, the following might be of interest :-

- . In his first year of office, Mr. Holt has flown some 125,000 miles in the course of his duties.
- . He has had personal discussions with the leaders of ten countries (not counting those represented at the Prime Ministers' Conference in London). The meetings were with the leaders of Thailand, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, the Philippines, New Zealand, Malta, Britain and the United States.

The year's highlights.....

February, 1966

- . Talks with Mr. Denis Healey on future defence East of Suez
- . Discussions with Vice-President Humphrey and Ambassador Harriman, primarily on the question of Viet Nam
- . Visit by the Prime Minister of Thailand (Discussions on the threat of Communist expansionism)
- . Introduction of decimal currency
- . Review of the state of the economy.....particularly in regard to drought relief
- . Dawson by-election.

March

- . Parliament
- . Decision to send task force to Viet Nam (including National Servicemen)
- . Modification of migration laws in respect of Asians.

, April

- . Debate on Viet Nam continued.
- . Kooyong by-election
- . Visit by Queen Mother
- . Prime Minister officially opened meeting of Inter-Parliamentary Union in Canberra
- . Visit to Viet Nam, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia

May

- . Return from South-East Asia
- . Queensland State elections.

June

- . Premiers' Conference and Loan Council
- . Talks with the Prime Minister of New Zealand
- . Opening of SEATO Council Meeting
- . Departure for Washington and London.

July

- . Return from Britain and the U.S.
- . Talks with industry
- . Pre-Budget discussions

August

- . Budget
- . Departure for Prime Ministers' Conference

September

- . Prime Ministers' Conference in London

October

- . Visit to Australia by President Johnson
- . Manila Conference

November

- . Election Campaign
- . Government returned with record majority

December

- . Formation of Second Holt Ministry

January, 1967

- . Visit by Prime Minister Ky of Viet Nam

February

- . Visit to New Zealand (first by an Australian Prime Minister since 1954)

T. EGGLETON

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister

CANBERRA,
25th January, 1967