

## NEW ZEALAND TOUR 1967

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### LUNCHEON GIVEN BY MR. HOLYOAKE, PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND IN HONOUR OF MR. HOLT, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

3RD FEBRUARY, 1967.

#### Text of Speech Made by Mr. Holyoake

Right Hon. Harold Holt, Mrs. Stevenson, Your Excellencies, my Ministerial and Parliamentary colleagues, and Gentlemen:

It gives me tremendous pleasure on behalf of you all and on behalf of all of the people of New Zealand, to issue the warmest welcome that I am capable of doing to our Guest of Honour, the Right Hon. Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia. It is only 12 brief months since he became Prime Minister of Australia, but in that time he has already won for himself a very distinctive place and earned a reputation for decision-making and for being a very decisive and active leader, and we are all delighted that he is able to find the time possible - practically a long weekend out of a very busy life - to come to meet New Zealanders on their own ground. This we take as a great compliment to us. We are delighted also of course that his charming and elegant wife was able to accompany him.

Need I say that Australians and New Zealanders have always been close friends, and we always will be. I think that our relationship is without parallel throughout the world. It is unique. There is nothing quite like it. It is true that we are linked together by treaty, but it is not the formal word, it is not the printed word, it is not the treaty that really binds us together. These things, I think, are embedded deep in our understanding of each other, in our mutual respect, in our common heritage, and in our common destiny.

We have always been aware of many similarities. We have the same language - almost the same, I'm not up to date on this. I remember an old friend of mine many years ago telling me that he could speak the Australian language. So I asked him why, and he told me he visited Australia once. It was in the time of the fight for the universal franchise - a long time ago. He said he was going down a street at King's Blank Cross and he heard two Australians arguing, and one said "Bill, what do they mean 'one man, one vote'". And Bill said "Well, it's simple: it's just one blank man one blank vote." And John said "Well, if they blanketty well mean one blank man, one blank vote, why don't they blanketty well say so." He contended that he had in that short time learned to speak the Australian language. I am not better informed on what he meant or actually what happened than that.

Our language, our origins, our membership of the Commonwealth, our mutual love of sport, our determination to fight for the liberties of man which we consider fundamental to our mutual way of life - these things we have so much in common. These are, I believe, the basic truths and principles upon which our deep friendship rests: these are the things. I do want to make this point - and Harold Holt would, I am sure, wish me to make it - that neither of us is either the image or the echo of the other. We have also dissimilar characteristics, and these are understandable. New Zealand is a group of islands. Australia is a great continent - one of the great continents of the world. In New Zealand we have almost matchless resources for pastoral pursuits, the growing of

grass, almost a perfect climate - as you will have noticed, Harold.

I am bound in extenuation to point out that this is the tail-end of cyclone "Dinah", which originated somewhere in the great continent towards our north-west somewhere, I think. On the other hand, of course, Australia has vast supplies of coal, iron, and very many other now very valuable minerals, in addition to her great agricultural wealth. Dissimilar - we have less than 3,000,000 population : Australia, 12,000,000. So these are the obvious differences between us, and that will continue to produce and perhaps emphasise, and some people over-emphasise, further differences. I think this an inevitable thing. People do tend to over-emphasise the difference between brothers and sisters, because they expect them to be so much alike. They do not do this where people are not closely related. These are the obvious differences in what we can produce, what we may achieve, but what is important, we think, is that our peoples are both seeking the same goals together and in very much the same ways. We are moving toward them together. This I believe, particularly in recent years, has been happening in a very great variety of settings - in the Commonwealth, in the United Nations, in SEATO and ANZUS, in ECAFE, the Colombo Plan, ASPAC, and now in the Asian Development Bank and other spheres I could mention. I think it is worth calling to our minds that some 65 years ago, when the people of Australia were considering the question of a Federal Constitution, we were invited to discuss this with them and perhaps take a part and become a part of that Federation. It was considered. Those who preceded us decided no. We had our own special destiny: we had our own special aspirations: and so we would keep apart. We felt that we had perhaps a distinctive contribution to make. In our humble way we have tried to make it. But again I come back to the fact that particularly in the last 25 years in this very rapidly changing world, we have reacted to the same problems, the same positions, the same challenges in very much the same way. The discussions that my Cabinet colleagues and I were privileged to have with Mr. Holt this morning only tended and served to emphasise and underline that fact. We have both learned of course that we not only cannot ignore but we desire to know our near neighbours in the north much better - the people of South East Asia and of Asia generally. We realise more than ever - and every day that goes past does emphasise it - that our destiny is tied up with these countries in the matter of security, culture, trade. We can learn much from them, from the association with their old and their rich cultures.

We have learned to make new friends, and we have made them very much together. Yes, there are differences between us, but we do recognise that our paths lie very close - parallel. I think perhaps the development of recent years with the tremendous travel between our two countries of our own peoples: I am informed about 50,000 each year now - businessmen, tourists, artists, sportsmen, and the rest. This, of course, is serving to tie us much more closely together, and I look forward, we in New Zealand look forward, to a continuation and indeed a growth of these exchanges between our peoples so that not only Parliamentarians, not only businessmen, but the man in the street as we label him, can get to know the other on their own ground. This is very important indeed.

Mrs. Stevenson, Your Excellencies, Gentlemen, there is so much more that one could say, but you will want to listen to Harold Holt, our Guest of Honour. I am going presently to invite Mr. Hugh Gatt, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, to join me in this welcome before I propose the toast to our Guest of Honour. All I can say is that on your behalf - those of you gathered here: and this, Harold, is a very good cross-section of all of our people, so I know I can speak on behalf of all our people when I say to you that I cannot think of anybody who could possibly be more warmly welcomed here in Wellington and in New Zealand - you and your wife. May you feel this in the few days you are here:

may you feel this warmth of friendship exuding and reaching out towards you. May you, as a result of that, take away very happy memories, deep memories, of the fondness of the people of New Zealand for yourself, your wife, and the people of Australia generally. You are just exactly a thousand times welcome here in Wellington and New Zealand. Now I invite Mr. Hugh Watt to join me in this welcome.

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