

NEW ZEALAND TOUR 1967

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY MR. HOLYOAKE,
PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND AND MR.
HOLT, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA FOLLOWING
CABINET DISCUSSIONS

3RD FEBRUARY, 1967

The Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Australia have greatly welcomed this opportunity for a general discussion in the company of members of the New Zealand Cabinet, on matters of common interest to our two countries. All have found it of great value and the Prime Ministers intend to take the further opportunities they will have for close discussion during the remainder of the visit.

This meeting continues and expresses our close association, and falls within the context of a series of intimate but informal talks which have taken place between the two Prime Ministers during the past year in London at the Prime Ministers' Conference, in Canberra for the meeting of the SEATO Council and at the Manila Conference.

Today we have talked together on our outlooks and policies on matters of common interest in the South-East Asian and Pacific region, international trade and the trade between our two countries. Our discussions confirm that our interests run very much together.

We agree about the need to continue military assistance in the defence of Viet Nam while, at the same time, actively searching for a peaceful settlement. We recognise that, hand in hand with the military effort, there is an increasing need for civil aid for the Vietnamese people.

We see the turn of events in Indonesia, of course, as of major importance to both our countries, and we hope to see Indonesia playing its full part in promoting peace and progress in the region.

Taking an overall view of South-East Asia, movements there for greater regional co-operation offer encouraging possibilities for the future. Having regard to the vital interest for both our countries in the future of the region, we are agreed that Australia and New Zealand should pursue policies designed to encourage these trends.

Along with our interest in South-East Asia is our concern with developments within the South-West Pacific Region.

International trade and related matters are of particular significance for our two countries. We have a common interest in achieving more realistic marketing arrangements for agricultural products. British entry into the Common Market would produce problems for both countries and the prospect of this calls for the continuation of our closest consultation. Matters relating to the Free Trade Agreement will be the subject of further and detailed discussion between our Deputy Prime Ministers who are to meet shortly.

We see scope for mutual benefit in closer co-operation on tourism, particularly in the encouragement of movement of tourists from other countries to New Zealand and Australia.

Australia and New Zealand share a deep-seated attachment to the Commonwealth. They recognise, however, the growing complexities and problems arising in our multi-racial Commonwealth and will co-operate together towards promoting the Commonwealth as a force for peace and progress in the world. We welcome the world role which Britain continues to play in the achievement of the purposes of the Commonwealth. In this connection, we attach great importance to the decision of Britain to maintain a presence East of Suez and to continue to accept a role in South-East Asia. Australia and New Zealand remain equally determined to play their part in maintaining an adequate Commonwealth presence in the area.

We feel that in today's discussions we have been able to further our common purposes on immediate political and economic problems and on world issues of special significance to our two countries. Our discussions have been informal, frank and friendly, as befits our close relationship. We intend that there shall be further similar meetings.
