

NEW ZEALAND TOUR 1967

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PRESS CONFERENCE SUMMING UP TALKS  
WITH MR. HOLYOAKE - TE ANAU, NEW  
ZEALAND

7TH FEBRUARY, 1967.

MR. HOLT: I thought I would give you some idea of the things Mr. Holyoake and I talked about. We have had a series of opportunities for talking closely together. I won't be able to go into a great deal of detail on these matters because a lot of the talk was of quite a confidential kind, but it was helpful to us both to exchange views in this intimate way, and as you will gather from the subject matter I will give you, the talks ranged far and wide.

Naturally Vietnam featured in its various aspects in our discussions and so did the South Pacific generally. I was very interested, for example, to learn of the constitutional developments which have occurred in the territories, formerly Trust Territories of New Zealand, and some of these territories in this general area are of such interest to us that I thought it would be useful, and I suggested this to Mr. Holyoake, that at some point of time, not necessarily this year but at a time convenient to us, we take a look at the people to see how they are faring in the new situations which have arisen from their new constitutional processes.

And decimal currency.....I was able to speak with some authority on this matter, of course, as the Treasurer who introduced the scheme into Australia; I have noticed quite a deal of discussion in the press here about the transition phase. Some of the apprehensions which have formerly been voiced in Australia were expressed here and I was able to tell them of our own experience. The fact is that in some directions it has exceeded our expectations, but the cost has been less than we had estimated and the changeover of the machinery is proceeding well ahead of schedule.

Understandably, as two Heads of Government, we had a good deal to talk about together on the way we organize our Cabinet and Parliamentary business and seeing what we could learn from each other which would be helpful. We found that there were differences in methods of treating different subject matter, Cabinet for example. He was interested to see how our procedures went, and I think I was able to indicate directions in which we had streamlined our Cabinet business. On the other hand, of course, he had a rather different situation here with a smaller Ministry and his Ministers are more accessible in point of distance than mine can be. But this was the sort of thing, Parliamentary and Cabinet organisation of business which came into our talks.

Tourism, I said something about this at the Parliamentary Luncheon, and the more I have seen as I have gone around the more I feel that we can usefully co-operate together. Quite obviously New Zealand has a great deal to offer which should be more widely known in Australia and I may be able to help in that direction, but what I was thinking of particularly, when I spoke previously, was that we might be able to help each other by encouraging tourists who come to our own countries to take in a visit to the other as part of their journey. I have been interested incidentally to see how the Government has established hotels such as this here at particular points of scenic attraction where the area has not been adequately served previously by the official hotel industry. Mr. Holyoake expressed to me that they don't move into an area where there is an hotel service provided already, but the points where they are featuring the attractions of the place and there isn't accommodation appropriate to the sort of tourist traffic they are looking for they have gone into this field. I am not implying that there is a

parallel to this in Australia but it is interesting to see how they are handling it.

I think I have a clearer picture of the Manapouri Scheme as a result of having come here, and its importance to New Zealand, both to add some visual picture of the basis of the Scheme and also its implications.

The topic of forest products is one which is clearly one of interest here, and while the Prime Minister touched on this and the operations of the Free Trade Agreement, we did not discuss this in any depth because John McEwen is coming over shortly for detailed discussion on these matters as part of the regular and periodical conference in the writing out of the Agreement. But I must admit that I haven't detected the same tone in my discussions with Ministers here that there has been evident in some of the editorials and some of the statements by representatives of industry on this matter.

We had a good deal to talk about together of mutual interest arising from the visit to our respective countries of President Johnson and Prime Minister Ky. I was able to inform the Prime Minister in a quite incidental way of the purposeful approach of our manufacturing industries in some of our more sophisticated projects. For example, the work we are doing at Woomera through ELDO and also the manufacture of the guided missile system such as IKARA.

We talked of the Manila Conference and the desirability of maintaining momentum in relation to the goals which had emerged from the Manila Conference. We talked in a general way without either of us having very precise information about the recent developments in China. Now that is not an exhaustive list. It is just a selection which I jotted down last night on some of the matters which had occupied our time together. We covered a very wide range, and I am sure I am very much better informed about New Zealand, both as a result of my visit and the talks with Cabinet and more particularly the Prime Minister. I think I can claim he has learned a good deal more about what is going on inside Australia.

Aspects of the economy and the problems which he faces at the present time, of course, may also have come into our thoughts. But I am not wishing to imply on any of these matters that requests were made by one or the other in exchanging information and views, not seeking any immediate outcome from them. I thought it might be helpful to have cover of this sort because now we are moving into a day in which there won't be much of an official nature and perhaps these are elements of Australia which will fill in a bit. Have we made any arrangements for a final talk with.....

MR. EGGLETON: There will be an opportunity at Christchurch tomorrow. They want an opportunity to have a final word with you and, of course, Christchurch would be the best place for that. And of course, when we get off the plane in Canberra tomorrow night there will be a similar little gathering on the tarmac as there was when you left.

MR. HOLT: Well all right. I think we can give at that the general impressions on how it went.

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