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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ASIA

The broad itinerary for the visit by the Prime Minister, Mr. Holt, to Asia has now been determined. Mr. Holt will be visiting Cambodia, Laos, Taiwan and Korea at the invitation of the Governments of those countries.

Mr. Holt will fly by Qantas to Singapore where he will spend the night of 28th March. He will then travel by a RAAF Viscount to Cambodia (29th March/31st March), Laos (1st April/2nd April), Hong Kong (transit to and overnight stop on 3rd April), Taiwan (4th April/6th April) and Korea (6th April/9th April). He will arrive back in Sydney the following morning (10th).

This will be Mr. Holt's third visit to Asia since becoming Prime Minister last year. The main purpose of this journey is to enable him to visit the four remaining countries of the area with which he has not previously made some personal contact. Each of these countries has a special significance for Australia.

Mrs. Holt will accompany the Prime Minister. Officials included in the Prime Minister's party are :- Sir Laurence McIntyre, CBE, (Deputy Secretary, Department of External Affairs), Mr. D. J. Munro (First Assistant Secretary, Prime Minister's Department), Mr. R. A. Woolcott, (Counsellor, Department of External Affairs) and Mr. F. W. Jennings (Prime Minister's Department).

The Prime Minister's personal staff will comprise his Press Secretary, Mr. T. Eggleton, and his Private Secretary, Miss P. A. De Lacy.

Dr. M. de L. Faunce of Canberra will serve as medical adviser to the party.

Considerable press interest is being displayed in Mr. Holt's Asian visit and it is expected that a press party of about 14 representatives of press, radio and television will accompany the Prime Minister, travelling in a separate aircraft.

CANBERRA,
6th March, 1967

BACKGROUND NOTE :

Mr. Holt's two previous visits to Asia were -

1. April, 1966: Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore
2. October, 1966: The Philippines (Manila Conference)