

KOREA

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER OF SOUTH KOREA
AT KIMPO AIRPORT, SEOUL

6TH APRIL, 1967

Your Excellency Prime Minister Holt, Mrs. Holt, distinguished members of the entourage and dear fellow citizens.

On behalf of the Government and people of Korea I wish to extend my warmest welcome to Prime Minister and Mrs. Holt, who have come a long way from Australia, one of our closest allies.

The Korean people vividly recall how the Australian people came to our aid in our time of dire need. We are also fully aware of the great contributions Australia is making in the cause of peace and progress in the Asian and Pacific region. When our independence and future were at stake on account of the unprovoked communist invasion in 1950, Australia was among the first free nations to dispatch combat troops of ground, naval and air forces to this country to help us defend our Republic from external aggression.

Indeed, we feel forever indebted to those members of the Australian armed forces who, despite enormous hardships, valiantly fought in an alien land in the cause of freedom and justice, marking brilliant records in the annals of the Korean War through their noble sacrifices. At the time when the communist forces launched a full-scale offensive in the spring of 1951, the gallant Australian soldiers in the now famous battle of Kapyong, though greatly outnumbered and under adverse conditions, held to their positions to the last, helping the allied forces secure their vital positions and finally frustrate the enemy's offensive. Their gallantry and heroism are still fresh in our memory.

Through various United Nations relief programmes, the Colombo Plan and the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Australia has helped us in the rehabilitation of the war-torn country and the achievement of social and cultural progress. As a member of the United Nations Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, Australia has also been working strenuously toward our goal of bringing about a unified, democratic and independent Korea.

Our hearts are overwhelmed today with deep sentiments in welcoming Prime Minister Holt, the great leader of the Australian people who have done so much for us.

Mr. Prime Minister, the Australian people have overcome many an obstacle including adverse natural conditions to bring about abundance and wealth, prosperity and welfare for themselves. Now they are sparing no effort in helping other free Asian nations overcome their adversities. Australia has also taken active part in SEATO, ANZUS, ASPAC, the Manila Summit Conference and the Asian Development Bank, thereby contributing greatly to the progress and prosperity in the Asian and Pacific region and to the collective security of the free nations in this part of the world.

We, the Korean people, have great admiration for your people's courage, resourcefulness and the spirit of co-operation.

In Korea, we have been able to attain remarkable