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TALKS WITH UNITED STATES MISSION

The Prime Minister tonight described as "very valuable and informative" the talks held today between representatives of the U.S. Government and senior members of the Australian Cabinet.

The talks, which were held at The Lodge, ran from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The U.S. group comprised Mr Clark Clifford, General Maxwell Taylor, the United States Ambassador, Mr Clark, Mr R. C. Steadman of the U.S. Defense Department, Mr H. Freeman Matthews, State Department and Mr E. Cronk, Counsellor, U.S. Embassy. The Australian party was made up of the Prime Minister, Mr Holt, the Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr McEwen, the Treasurer, Mr McMahon, the Minister for External Affairs, Mr Hasluck, the Minister for Defence, Mr Fairhall, the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department, Sir John Bunting, and the Australian Ambassador to the United States, Mr Keith Waller.

The Prime Minister said that the talks were extensive and had ranged over all those aspects of the Vietnam situation which the representatives from both groups had raised.

He and his colleagues would be reporting on the discussions to Cabinet.

No decisions had been sought or taken on any aspect, but the exchange of information and views would be helpful to further consideration by the Governments of both countries.

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CANBERRA

30th July, 1967