

FOR PRESS:



P.M. No. 100/1967

R.S.L. 52nd National Congress

Message from the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

I send best wishes for your 52nd National Congress of the Returned Services League. You meet at a time when Australian Forces are again engaged in resistance of aggression and in support of the cause of freedom.

Australians have, through this century, made a contribution of this kind disproportionate to their numbers and their resources. We are not a war-like people, but this reflects our determination to help preserve a world in which people can live out their lives in freedom and proceed with the peaceful progress of their nation.

Our servicemen and women have earned a deservedly high reputation for the quality of their courage, devotion to duty and service to their country. Through your own organisation, the largest representing them, and others, they have continued as citizens of the Australian community their public spirited services. May you go on in strength as you move further into your second 50 years of existence.

Because Governments know that you will always be motivated by the high ideals you served so devotedly in time of war, we shall always welcome and give thorough consideration to any views you put to us emerging from your discussions together.

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CANBERRA  
23rd October, 1967.

Note: This message from the Prime Minister was read at the opening of the Congress today by the Minister for Repatriation, Senator McKellar, who represented Mr. Holt.