



VISIT TO SOUTH EAST ASIA 1968

DJAKARTA

ARRIVAL STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
MR. JOHN GORTON

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13 JUNE 1968

I am happy to have this opportunity to visit the Republic of Indonesia on my first trip to South East Asia since becoming Prime Minister of Australia. My wife and I have been greatly looking forward to this visit and are grateful to the Government of Indonesia for its kind invitation.

Although the association between our two countries is short when measured in terms of history, dating only from your independence it has been an association which has laid a foundation of friendship and co-operation. We in Australia, contiguous to Asia and part of the Asian and Pacific region, look to the forging of an enduring relationship with our closest South East Asian neighbour. We in Australia are deeply aware of the new world of independent nations in this region. It is in this region we feel that in friendly co-operation with our neighbours we can make our contribution to stability and progress.

As a friend and neighbour, Australia has enjoyed fruitful relationships with Indonesia in fields of practical co-operation. Your students have attended our universities and technical institutions and Australians have worked alongside Indonesians on projects ranging from road building in East Nusa Tenggara to the installation of an aerial communications network spanning the vast area of the Archipelago of the Republic. Our firm support of your present rehabilitation programme is assured.

I am looking forward to discussions with your President and his Ministers on the many matters of mutual interest. It is my hope that our two Governments will expand their areas of co-operation in the future and that the range of personal and cultural contacts between our people will widen over the coming years.

I hope also during this visit to see more of your country and people. My wife, who stayed in your country for a period of six weeks in 1966, has insisted that I see something of the natural beauty of Indonesia and experience the warmth and hospitality of the Indonesian people. This we will do. After my period of official meetings and discussions here in Djakarta, we are also going to visit Bandung and Bali.
