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PARIS TALKS PROCEED

Comment in the House of Representatives by the  
Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

I welcome the fact that as a result of discussions between the United States and the Republic of Vietnam, the way is now open for talks to proceed in Paris.

As I informed the House on 5 November, Australia had already advised the South Vietnam Government that we felt their interests would be best served by their representatives attending the talks in Paris. I am therefore glad that as the outcome of talks between the United States and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam an understanding has been reached that clears the way for the Government of the Republic of Vietnam to take part.

The Australian Government has always regarded it as essential that the position of the Republic of Vietnam should be safeguarded both in the conduct of hostilities and in any moves to bring those hostilities to an end.

For the information of the House, I present copies of the statements issued in Saigon and Washington a few hours ago.

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CANBERRA  
26 November 1968

