

SECOND VISIT TO THE U.S. 1969

WASHINGTON

ARRIVAL STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER,  
MR. JOHN GORTON

6 MAY 1969

I am glad to be here on a second visit to Washington within a space of only a few weeks, and glad that this visit is made in happier circumstances than the last.

I return for fuller consultations on matters opened up on my last visit but postponed because of the period of mourning.

I now look forward to resuming my discussions with the President and with the Secretaries of State and Defence and feel these meetings will be more fruitful as a result of preliminary talks last month.

I hope to be told Mr. Nixon's latest assessment of Vietnam and the Paris talks, and to discuss with him the general problem of world security particularly as it affects Australia's regional interest in the South East Asian area. I hope also to discuss matters concerned with our common defence.

I am also meeting members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the invitation of Senator Fulbright. This is an opportunity I warmly appreciate.

My visit to Washington is not to deal with any one specific subject. I regard it, rather, as a practical expression of the close, frank and continuing relationship between two good friends - Australia and the United States.

Our two countries share many common objectives. We both want a world where nations big and small can live in independence and security, develop their standards of living, and share in an expanding world economy. In this world of change we want change to occur peacefully and to be of a kind designed to lead to better lives for all men. We can and must work together to help achieve this.

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