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CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH DEFENCE MINISTER

Statement issued following talks between
Lord Carrington and the Prime Minister

Following visits to Singapore and Malaysia, the British Secretary of State for Defence, Lord Carrington, is visiting Australia for preliminary consultations as part of the British Government's study of matters involved in its decision to continue a British military presence in Malaysia/Singapore.

The Prime Minister and other Ministers met with Lord Carrington this morning. The Prime Minister welcomed the British Government's decision to continue to make a military contribution in the area. He explained the Australian Government's position on the basis of his statement to Parliament on 25 February 1969 and this position will be taken fully into account by the British Government in reaching its decision.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Prime Minister and Lord Carrington expressed themselves as well satisfied with the exchange of views and affirmed the intention to maintain the closest consultation.

Lord Carrington will continue discussions with the Minister for Defence and the Minister for External Affairs this afternoon.

CANBERRA
31 July 1970