

VISIT OF POPE PAUL VI

FAREWELL AT SYDNEY AIRPORT

Speech by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

Your Holiness, Your Excellencies, Mr. Premier, Ladies and Gentlemen :

No words of mine are necessary, Sir to let you know how welcome you have been, for the warmth and sincerity of the crowds that have flocked to see you have made that manifest.

This, the first visit by a Pontiff, is something we shall long remember. It has been specially significant to our Roman Catholic community, but it has had a wider significance and one that touches all of us.

Your visit, Sir, has come at a time when there is a growing spirit of unity among Christian peoples, and your message of peace and goodwill, based on fundamental Christian principles, has universal appeal.

We admire the way in which you have managed to cope with the many demands and the constant demands upon your time and energy while you have been here.

You have met many Australians, people from various walks of life - the old, the young, the native-born, the migrants - but all Australians. And in addition, through radio and television, the message which you brought has been transferred to the remotest parts of this great continent.

Now you are to continue your journey, and as you travel on, I hope you will have with you in your heart warm and happy memories of our nation.

We are glad you came. We wish you Godspeed and a safe journey home. And we thank you.

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