



# PRIME MINISTER

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VISIT TO INDONESIA, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, THE  
RT. HON. WILLIAM McMAHON, C.H., M.P.

DEPARTURE STATEMENT - SINGAPORE

I visited Singapore from 8 to 11 June, 1972 at the invitation of the Singapore Government.

Substantive discussions were held with the Prime Minister, The Minister for Defence, Dr. Goh Keng Swee, The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. S Rajaratnam, and The Minister for Finance, Mr. Hon Sui Sen. The discussions, which took place in a cordial frank and friendly atmosphere, revealed a close identity of views on many issues, and contributed substantially to a deeper mutual understanding of our respective positions and policies.

The subjects discussed covered a wide range of international, regional and bilateral questions.

On the international plane, we discussed President Nixon's visits to Peking and to Moscow and the consequent developments in Asia. We also reviewed the situation in Indo-China and found that our assessments were on very similar lines. We expressed the hope that the present tragic conflict could be brought to an early end and a just and peaceful settlement achieved.

I was given a comprehensive review of regional developments - including the progress made towards co-operation and solidarity among the ASEAN countries. Australia welcomes these developments and wishes ASEAN countries further success in their joint endeavors.

I was pleased to have confirmed to me the appreciation of the helpful and stabilising role which Australia is playing in the region. I feel that we are regarded as a reliable friend and partner.

On bilateral issues, we talked in depth about our relations. They are in excellent shape.

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We noted with satisfaction that our two-way trade is continuing to expand and that mutually beneficial private investment is growing with government encouragement and support.

Our defence co-operation with Singapore is on a sound footing. We agreed that the Five Power Defence Arrangements are of value to us both, are working smoothly and that no changes are necessary.

I also visited the Jurong Industrial Estate and Vocational Institute. I was most impressed by what the Singapore authorities have achieved at Jurong. The rapid and efficient development of this industrial area bears eloquent witness to the vigour and vitality of present day Singapore.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister both for his generous hospitality and friendly welcome, and for the fruitful and productive exchanges which we have had. These exchanges have confirmed my belief that we share a basically similar view of the future of the region and the need for strengthening regional co-operation.

I believe my visit helped to contribute to this objective, and to the strength of our relationship.

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CANBERRA,

11 June, 1972.