



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN LAOS

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Willesee, today welcomed the achievement of a ceasefire agreement in Laos. The Acting Minister recalled that the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, which Australia had supported, had not succeeded in preserving peace in that country. He said that it was Australia's earnest hope that this present agreement would be fully observed and would lead to a durable political settlement.

Senator Willesee noted that the agreement in Laos, following upon the recent ceasefire agreement in Viet-Nam, represented another step towards the restoration of peace throughout Indo-China. It was to be hoped that a ceasefire in the Khmer Republic would not be long delayed.

Senator Willesee reaffirmed Australia's readiness to assist generously in the peaceful economic reconstruction of all the countries of Indo-China, and hoped that conditions on the ground would soon permit the formulation and implementation of Australian aid programmes.