PRESS STATEMENT:
MALCOLM FRASER:

SUMMARY

Malcolm Fraser said at Warrnambool -

At the end of this week Australians will decide the Government of this country for the 25th Parliament. At every meeting I have attended I have tried to stress the importance of the foreign policy issues, of our commitment to the new Malaysia and of our Agreement with the United States over the Radio Base.

Of the first of these I think it is important to remember that our commitment to Malaysia is really only backing up an undertaking that had been given by the United Kingdom who has large forces in the area, and we should also remember that Malaysia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and is a country that is as strongly democratic as we are. If there is any country in Asia that deserves our support Malaysia is one. Support for the Government at this election will re-affirm the commitment that the Government has undertaken and I believe this to be necessary as the statements by the Opposition have been equivocal and clouded, to say the least.

Secondly, the agreement over the North West Cape is really only an extension of the ANZUS Treaty in which the United States, Australia and New Zealand undertake to assist each other if attacked, and to do everything that can be done to build up the security and defence of the region. What has been done on the Radio Base is really only an extension of the ANZUS pact. On this issue again the Opposition's attitude is clouded and vague at the best. At the worst it could lead to the American withdrawal of the base and repercussions to the ANZUS Treaty itself.

If these foreign policy issues that have arisen in the last 12 or 18 months were not so important, if they did not demand even a decision by the Australian people, I would be perfectly happy to fight this election on the domestic record of the Government which, taken over its period of fourteen years, will stand any scrutiny. National output and productivity in both primary and secondary industries has increased. Government policy has been to work towards this end and especially to assist private enterprise. Government policy will, in the future, be followed to the same end.

The record of performance in the past, of high and expanding output, of a high and full level of employment can be taken as a guarantee that the Government's pledges and promises for the future will be fulfilled.

New items of policy announced in the Prime Minister's policy speech are modest in their cost but important to the people they are designed to help, especially those items that concern education. They are designed to indicate or to show that the Government is continually looking to the future and that it will continue to bring forward new ideas which will be to the advantage of the country, ideas that are sound and practical in every sense.