

CONTRIBUTION TO INDONESIAN RED CROSS

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. J. McEwen

The Acting Prime Minister today announced that the Australian Government would contribute £10,000 to the Indonesian Red Cross for relief in disaster-affected areas in Indonesia.

Mr. McEwen said that severe damage had been caused recently by a cyclone in the Tanimbar Islands and by flooding in Western Java. In referring to these disasters, Mr. McEwen expressed the sympathy of the Australian people for the hardships and losses suffered by the Indonesian people.

Australian assistance was being given in the form of medical supplies (anti-biotics) valued at £10,000 to alleviate distress in the disaster areas and as a practical demonstration of Australian interest in the welfare of the Indonesian people as a whole.

The contribution of medical supplies, which would weigh more than two tons, would shortly be transported from Sydney to Djakarta by the Royal Australian Air Force.

CANBERRA,

22nd March, 1961.