

FOR PRESS.

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The Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs today announced that the Australian Government would donate one hundred tons of rice to Tonga. Including shipping and insurance charges the gift is worth £7,200.

Mr. Menzies said that severe damage had been caused recently by a hurricane in the northern islands of Tonga and many Tongans were homeless as a result. Australian assistance was being offered to alleviate their distress and to help the Tongan authorities to put into effect their plan of establishing a store of food to guard against shortages arising from natural disasters. The gift was a practical demonstration of Australian interest in the welfare of the Tongan people.

CANBERRA,
22nd April, 1961.
