

FOR PRESS :

P.M. No. 81/1962

VISIT BY H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Statement by the Prime Minister, Rt.Hon. R.G. Menzies

The Duke of Edinburgh has approved a programme for his visit to Canberra on November 20 on his way to Perth for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

The Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr. McMahon, will represent the Commonwealth Government at the Sydney airport welcome to Prince Philip who will arrive in Australia on a regularly scheduled Qantas Boeing at 7.35 a.m. on November 20.

After the brief Sydney welcome, Prince Philip will transfer to an R.A.A.F. Convair and leave Sydney at 7.55 a.m., arriving at Canberra airport at 8.50 a.m.

While in Canberra, the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Australian Academy of Science for a brief ceremony to admit him as a Royal Fellow of the Academy. He will then sign the Academy's Charter Book.

Prince Philip will leave Canberra by R.A.A.F. Convair at 8.45 a.m. on November 21, making a 45-minute refuelling stop at Edinburgh airfield before reaching Perth at 5 p.m. W.S.T.

The next day, November 22, Prince Philip will officially open the Games.

He will remain in Australia until December 2.

CANBERRA,

9th November, 1962.

BACKGROUND

TRAVEL :

The Duke of Edinburgh will travel to and from Australia in a regularly-scheduled Qantas Boeing. He will leave London on Monday, November 12, for San Francisco, and leave there for Sydney on Sunday, November 18. The return flight to London will be from Perth via Singapore, Calcutta, Karachi and Rome.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FUNCTION :

The Australian Academy of Science has provision in its charter for the election of a "Royal Fellow." The by-law reads :

"The council may from time to time by resolution passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members voting upon the resolution elect as a Royal Fellow of the Academy a Royal Prince who, in its opinion, is eminent in respect of his interest in Science."

This is the first such election.

OUTWARD BOUND MOVEMENT :

The Duke of Edinburgh is patron of the Australian movement, which is the same as the one in England. The aim of the movement is to promote team spirit, truthfulness, perseverance, courage, loyalty, unselfishness and leadership and particularly to develop the right qualities of character. At the Australian Outward Bound Memorial Foundation school at Fisherman's Point, on the Hawkesbury River, near Sydney, 28-day courses are held for boys from every walk of life. The boys, aged from 16½ to 19½, receive training in seamanship, athletics, cross country expeditions, rock climbing and life-saving. Cadet leadership courses, for boys aged from 19½ to 25 are also held. The president of the Australian Outward Bound Memorial Foundation is Rear Admiral H.J. Buchanan.

CANBERRA,

November 9, 1962.