

FOR PRESS :

P.M. 19/1965

WHEAT GIFT FOR INDIA

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert  
Menzies

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies announced today that the Government had offered an immediate gift of 5,550,000 bushels of wheat to India.

Sir Robert said : "The Government has been keeping in very close touch for some time with the food situation in India. Very recently we learned from the Indian Government that because of unexpected delays in the arrival of imported supplies of wheat from some areas, it would be faced with a critical shortage over the next month or so until its own crop was harvested. We were asked if we could help meet the shortfall by the provision of the amount of 5,550,000 bushels, that is to say, 150,000 tons, and I am very happy to announce that the Government has decided to offer an immediate and unconditional gift of this amount of wheat to the Indian Government."

The Prime Minister added that he was sure that the gift of wheat to India, valued at nearly £4 million, would meet with the warm approval of the Australian people who had shown a keen interest in and desire to help the Indian people in their present difficulties.

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CANBERRA,

February 18, 1965.