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BRITISH GIFT TO CANBERRA

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

The British Government's gift to Canberra to mark the capital's Golden Jubilee will be a carillon on Aspen Island in Lake Burley Griffin. An announcement to this effect is also being made in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister of Britain.

In 1963, the then Prime Minister of Britain advised the Australian Government that the British Government would make a gift to mark the Golden Jubilee of Canberra, being celebrated that year. It was intended that the gift make a significant contribution to the development of Canberra and reflect Britain's and Australia's common parliamentary heritage. It was suggested at the time that the gift might take the form of a set or ornamental fountains or a bell tower.

Subsequently the Australian Government proposed that the gift take the form of a structure housing a carillon to be erected on Aspen Island.

In consultation with the Royal British Institute of Architects and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, it has been agreed that there should be a limited competition for the design: three Australian architects and three British architects will be invited to take part. The assessors for the competition will be Lord Holford, Mr. Bedford (the Chief Architect of the British Ministry of Public Building and Works), and Mr. Overall (Chairman of the National Capital Planning Committee). The winning design will be put before the British and Australian Governments for consideration before being adopted.

The British Government estimates the cost of the gift, including the competition, as being about £Stg. 200,000.

The carillon will be a notable addition and asset to the National Capital. The Australian Government warmly welcomes the British Government's generous and symbolic gift.

CANBERRA
14th February, 1967