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BRITISH GIFT TO CANBERRA

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

An Australian firm, Messrs Cameron, Chisholm and Nicol of Perth, has won the competition conducted by the British Government to select a design for a structure to house a carillon in Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin.

The carillon and the structure to house it will be built on Aspen Island in the Central Basin of Lake Burley Griffin. The cost will be met from a gift of £ (stg.) 200,000 made by the British Government in 1963 to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Canberra.

Six firms of architects, three British and three Australian, were invited to compete in a limited design competition. The British firms were - Messrs Ahrens, Burton and Koralek of London; Messrs Eldred Evans and Denis Gailey of London; and Messrs Robert Maguire and Keith Murray of Richmond, Surrey. The Australian firms were - Messrs Cameron, Chisholm and Nicol of Perth; Messrs McKay and Cox of Sydney; and Messrs Ancher, Mortlock, Murray and Woolley of Sydney.

Their designs were assessed by Lord Holford (a past President of the Royal Institute of British Architects); Sir Donald Gibson (Director-General of Research and Development of the British Ministry of Public Buildings and Works and former President of R. I. B. A.); and Sir John Overall (Chairman of the National Capital Planning Committee, Canberra).

The assessors, in commenting on their unanimous choice, stated :-

"The winning entry is a design which is simple, ingenious and impressive. From the point of view of playing the carillon and hearing the bells from all sides, the design is convenient and practical. The three triangular elements reflect the geometry of the layout of Canberra, and as a monument possesses a timeless quality."

The Government is naturally delighted that an Australian firm has won the competition. It is a happy omen that this British gift to our National Capital will be designed by Australians.

The carillon and its structure will be a notable addition to the National Capital and all the designs which were submitted to the assessors will be brought to Canberra where arrangements will be made for their display, after they have been on exhibition in Australia House.

CANBERRA,
24 April, 1968