



SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON.
JOHN G. GORTON, MP, IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
23 APRIL 1969

DEFENCE SPACE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY

I have to inform the House that the Government has accepted proposals which were made by the United States Government for the establishment in Australia of a joint United States/Australian defence space communications facility.

The facility will be located at Woomera. A site survey party from the United States is expected to visit Woomera soon.

Construction should commence in September or October and the installation should be ready to operate by late 1970. The joint staff of Australian and U.S. personnel required to operate the station will be between 250 and 300.

The construction of the station will be an important contribution to the defence of all free nations. It is a further and most important tangible expression of that close co-operation between the United States and Australia in defence matters which is embodied in the ANZUS Treaty.
