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SAILING SHIPS FOR COOK CELEBRATIONS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

Two Governments have confirmed that they will be sending sailing ships to Australia to take part in next year's Captain Cook Bicentenary Celebrations.

Chile's training barquentine, "Esmeralda", will be in Sydney for the re-enactment of the landing ceremony at Botany Bay on 29 April. Japan's cadet training barque, "Nippon Maru", will also be here for the Bicentenary Celebrations, but her sailing schedule is still being worked out.

I am delighted that the Chilean and Japanese Governments have been able to accept our invitation, and I am sure these sailing vessels, which are among the few remaining in the world, will be assured of a warm welcome.

Several other Governments have indicated informally that they are considering sending ships to Australia for the celebrations.

CANBERRA
11 August 1969