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DISTRIBUTION OF "ENDEAVOUR" CANNON

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton, announced today that one of the six cannon jettisoned by Captain Cook from the "Endeavour" on the Great Barrier Reef in 1770 would be mounted and displayed in the National Capital. Queensland and New South Wales, the States most intimately associated with Captain Cook would each receive a cannon.

Mr. Gorton said that he had written to Dr. H. Radclyffe Roberts, Director of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, the organisation responsible for mounting the expedition and locating the cannon, and had offered a cannon to them. Another was being presented to the Government and people of New Zealand as a goodwill gesture to mark that country's bicentenary celebrations of Cook's circumnavigation of New Zealand prior to discovering Australia. The sixth cannon would be presented to Britain for display at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

The Prime Minister said: "I would like to pay tribute to the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, in particular to Dr. Virgil Kauffman and Brigadier-General Wolf for the magnificent research, planning and effort which led to the discovery of these important relics. It was a happy coincidence that they were recovered in time to permit their restoration for Australia's bicentenary year."

The Prime Minister said that the cannon, which were coral encrusted, had undergone considerable restoration in the Defence Standards Laboratories of the Department of Supply under the care of Dr. C. Pearson and his staff. Considerable study of the original specifications had been made and it was proposed to construct wooden mountings for the cannon which were identical with the original mountings.

CANBERRA
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