

FOR PRESS

P. M. No 13/1970

QUEENSLAND CYCLONE

The Prime Minister has sent the following telegram to the Premier of Queensland, Mr Bjelke-Petersen:-

"ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT I EXPRESS SYMPATHY TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE SEVERE CYCLONE IN THE PROSERPINE AREA AND THE ADJACENT ISLANDS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF. THE COMMONWEALTH STANDS READY TO JOIN WITH THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT ON A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR BASIS IN FINANCING THE RELIEF OF PERSONAL HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS IN THE AFFECTED AREAS.

IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE REPORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN RECEIVED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE CYCLONE I HAVE ASKED MY COLLEAGUE THE MINISTER FOR THE NAVY TO ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND STATE GOVERNMENTS AS TO RELIEF MEASURES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED. "

CANBERRA
19 January 1970