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FOR PRESS:

PM No. 35/1971

THE MINISTRY

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. William McMahon

His Excellency the Governor-General has authorised me to announce that there will be a swearing-in of certain Ministers into their new portfolios tomorrow (Monday, 22 March).

As a consequence, the Cabinet and the Ministry will then comprise the following :-

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| *1. Prime Minister  | The Rt. Hon. William McMahon, M. P.              |
| *2. Deputy Prime Minister<br>and Minister for Trade<br>and Industry       | The Hon. J. D. Anthony, M. P.                    |
| *3. Minister for Defence  | The Rt. Hon. J. G. Gorton, M. P.                 |
| *4. Minister for Primary<br>Industry                                      | The Hon. Ian Sinclair, M. P.                     |
| *5. Minister for Supply and<br>Leader of the Government<br>in the Senate  | Senator the Hon. Sir Kenneth Anderson            |
| *6. Minister for National<br>Development and Leader<br>of the House       | The Hon. R. W. C. Swartz, M. B. E., E. D., M. P. |
| *7. Treasurer   | The Hon. B. M. Snedden, Q. C., M. P.             |
| *8. Attorney-General  | The Hon. N. H. Bowen, Q. C., M. P.               |
| *9. Minister for Education<br>and Science                                 | The Hon. David Fairbairn, D. F. C., M. P.        |
| *10. Postmaster-General and<br>Vice-President of the<br>Executive Council | The Hon. Sir Alan Hulme, K. B. E., M. P.         |
| *11. Minister for Foreign Affairs   | The Hon. L. H. E. Bury, M. P.                    |
| *12. Minister for Shipping and<br>Transport                               | The Hon. P. J. Nixon, M. P.                      |
| *13. Minister for Labour and<br>National Service                          | The Hon. Phillip Lynch, M. P.                    |

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14. Minister for External Territories	The Hon. C. E. Barnes, M. P.
15. Minister for Immigration	The Hon. A. J. Forbes, M. C., M. P.
16. Minister for Social Services	The Hon. W. C. Wentworth, M. P.
17. Minister for Works	Senator the Hon. R. C. Wright
18. Minister for Civil Aviation	Senator the Hon. Robert Cotton'
19. Minister for Customs and Excise	The Hon. D. L. Chipp, M. P.
20. Minister for Air	Senator the Hon. Tom Drake-Brockman, D. F. C.
21. Minister for the Army	The Hon. Andrew Peacock, M. P.
22. Minister for Repatriation	The Hon. R. McN. Holten, M. P.
23. Minister for Health	Senator L. J. Greenwood, Q. C.
24. Minister for the Navy	Dr. M. G. MacKay, M. P.
25. Minister for the Interior	The Hon. Ralph J. Hunt, M. P.
26. Minister for Housing	Mr. K. M. K. Cairns, M. P.

I have proposed to His Excellency that Senator I. J. Greenwood, Q. C., Dr. M. G. Mackay, M. P., and Mr. K. M. K. Cairns, M. P. be sworn as Members of the Federal Executive Council.

The first 13 Ministers named will comprise the Cabinet.

I foreshadow that a proposal will be put before Parliament for the amendment of the Ministers of State Act 1952-1968 to provide for an increase in the number of Ministers from twenty-six to twenty-seven. Providing Parliament has passed, and assent has been given to, the necessary amendments, I shall recommend to His Excellency the appointment of an additional Minister who will administer the Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council. In the meantime, the Postmaster-General will administer the Department.

Monday's swearing will involve nine Ministers. It will take place at 2 p. m.

I mention the following administrative arrangements :-

- (a) Mr. Wentworth and Senator Wright will continue their functions in relation to Aboriginal Affairs and Tourist Activities respectively.
- (b) Mr. Peacock will continue as Minister assisting the Prime Minister.

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It is intended to appoint in due course certain Assistant Ministers or Parliamentary Under-Secretaries who would be sworn of the Executive Council and assigned to assist particular Ministers. At that stage the present "Minister assisting" arrangements will be reviewed. I am of the strong view that it is desirable to proceed on these lines, because of the growing complexity of government and the need for additional members of Parliament to gain experience both in the legislative and administrative fields.

I mention also that the outgoing Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr. Snedden, now to be Treasurer, will, for the time being, have control of industrial relations policy.

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CANBERRA  
21 March 1971

NOTE: This is embargoed until  
10.00 pm, Sunday 21 March 1971