EMBARGO: NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BEFORE 12.01 A.M. MONDAY, 27TH APRIL, 1959.

FOR PRESS:

VISIT OF H.R.H. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF KENT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, today announced the outline programme of the visit to Australia during August and September of this year of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent.

(<u>FOR INFORMATION</u>: This is a simultaneous announcement, together with the Premiers of the three States Her Royal Highness will visit. The Premiers will give details of the State programmes.)

Mr. Menzies said Her Royal Highness would arrive at Canberra in the afternoon of Friday, August 14. She would leave for Queensland on Tuesday, August 18. She would travel by air to New South Wales on September 9. From New South Wales she would travel to Victoria on September 16. On September 23 she would fly from Melbourne to Canberra. On Thursday and Friday, September 24/25, she would visit Cooma and the Snowy Mountains area before leaving Australia on September 26 to return by air to the United Kingdom.

Mr. Menzies said that so far as possible Commonwealth and State Tour Organisers had tried to produce a programme which would achieve three things:-

- 1. To entertain the young Princess while, at the same time, showing her as much as possible of Australia and Australian life.
- 2. To enable as many people as possible to see Her Royal Highness during her visit.
- 3. To ensure that Her Royal Highness enjoyed her stay in Australia, and that the programme at every opportunity contained an "accent on youth".

Mr. Menzies said that three weeks of Her Royal Highness' 6-week visit would be spent in Queensland, which was celebrating its centenary year. She would spend 12 days of her Queensland tour in country areas. She would spend a long week-end on a Barrier Reef Island.

Her Royal Highness' visits to New South Wales and Victoria would be comparatively brief and informal.

In New South Wales she would make two country visits. In Victoria she would begin her visit with a train trip from Wodonga to Melbourne.

Her Royal Highness' visits to the Australian Capital Territory would be at the beginning and end of her tour. (AN OUTLINE OF THE A.C.T. PROGRAMME IS ATTACHED.)

"I am sure that Her Royal Highness will see much to interest her, and we hope that she will enjoy herself as much as we will enjoy having her with us," Mr. Menzies said.

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 26th April, 1959

VISIT TO THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BY

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF KENT

FIRST VISIT

Friday, August 14

Her Royal Highness will arrive R.A.A.F. Base, Afternoon

Canberra.

Free. Evening

Saturday, August 15

Morning

Free.

Afternoon

Free.

Evening

Her Royal Highness will attend Governor-General's

Dinner.

Sunday, August 16

Morning

Her Royal Highness will attend Divine Service.

Afternoon Evening

Free. Free.

Monday, August 17

Morning

Her Royal Highness will visit Australian War

Afternoon

Memorial; and Assembly of School Children. Her Royal Highness will attend Ball at Parliament

House.

Tuesday, August 18

Morning

- Her Royal Highness will fly to Brisbane.

SECOND VISIT

Wednesday September 23

Afternoon

Her Royal Highness will arrive R.A.A.F. Base,

Canberra, from Victoria.

Evening

Free.

Thursday, September 24

Morning

Her Royal Highness will tour Cooma and Snowy

Afternoon

Mountains area. Her Royal Highness will tour Cooma and Snowy

Mountains area.

Evening

Free.

Friday, September 25

Morning

Free.

Afternoon

Her Royal Highness will return to Canberra. Her Royal Highness will attend Dance at

Evening

Government House.

Saturday, September 26

Her Royal Highness will depart Canberra by air for return to the United Kingdom.