

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL TEAM FOR CONGO

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies

The Prime Minister announced today that the Government had agreed to make £15,000 available to the Australian Red Cross Society to help to send an Australian medical team to the Congo.

Mr. Menzies said that the decision had been made by Cabinet yesterday within 24 hours of a request from the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva and the World Health Organization for medical assistance for the Congo. The Australian team would probably consist of two doctors and a male nurse and its task was expected to be to assist in the rehabilitation of Congolese hospitals and medical services which were short of staff following the withdrawal of the Belgian administration.

Mr. Menzies said he hoped that the Australian medical team, which would serve in the Congo for some six months, would be ready to leave Australia within a few days.

CANBERRA,
3rd August, 1960.