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FOR THE PRESS

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

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FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN.

Statement by the Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs.

The Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, Mr R. G. Menzies, announced today that the Australian Government would contribute £A8,000 to the headquarters costs of United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

The Freedom from Hunger Campaign was approved by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization held in Rome in November last year. An Advisory Committee of Member Governments has been set up in Rome to advise the Director-General (Dr B. R. Sen) in his conduct of the campaign. Australia was elected as a member of this Committee.

Mr Menzies said discussions with the international organizations concerned had now reached a fairly advanced stage for establishing an Appeal Committee in Australia. He was not yet in a position to suggest any firm arrangements but he could say that, provided suitable arrangements of the kind now being discussed could be finalised, the Government would encourage the establishment and activities of an Appeal Committee which would raise funds in Australia for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

Mr Menzies recalled that the Freedom from Hunger Campaign would run from 1960 to 1965. If established, the Appeal Committee would probably conduct its appeal during 1961.
