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AUSTRALIA DAY MESSAGE

BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. R.G. MENZIES

To-day, on our 173rd birthday, we can look back with pride and thankfulness on the vision, energy, and ability of those who have gone before us. They helped to make Australia the wonderful country in which we live. It is our task to carry on their good work in the march to fullest nationhood.

The name Australia is one in which we should have an overwhelming pride. When we mention it we should think of the benefits our country has conferred upon us and our duties to it, and not be like the few who continuously think in terms of self-interest.

We who live in Australia derive not from the weak, but from the strong. Our forbears were adventurous people and their determination carved out the structure which is the base of our efforts for the future.

In the years ahead we will certainly have problems, but what nation has not had its problems? We have surmounted them in the past and we will overcome them in the future. Growing achievement will require energy and skill, but never yet has there been an Australian, worthy of the name, who lacked either of these great qualities.

So, on this our birthday, I ask hundreds of thousands of newcomers from overseas who are working side by side with us, to share in this heritage of which we are so proud. With the Australian flag at the masthead, each and everyone of us should celebrate this great day in a fitting manner. We should not regard it as just another holiday. It is in fact a day of joy, but it is above all a day of dedication.

CANBERRA

January 26, 1961.