

CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Statement by the Prime Minister and Minister for External
Affairs, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies

In 1955 the World Health Organisation launched a world-wide campaign to eliminate malaria, a disease which threatens a third of the world's people. The campaign is being financed in large part by voluntary subscription to a Special Account for Malaria Eradication. In response to an urgent request from the Director-General of the World Health Organisation, the Australian Government has this year contributed £20,000 to the Fund.

This year's contribution is larger than previous contributions, and is a token of Australia's support for the campaign and of the Government's appreciation of its objectives. The Australian mainland is virtually free from malaria, but in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea the eradication of malaria remains a major problem. In that Territory Australia has undertaken a fourteen year eradication programme, estimated to cost over two and three quarter million pounds. The success of that programme, on which last year the Administration of the Territory spent over £200,000, will be of benefit not only to the Territory, but to the world-wide campaign which the World Health Organization is directing.

CANBERRA,

7th February, 1961.