

MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies, announced today that during his absence overseas Mr. J. McEwen, Leader of the Country Party and Minister for Trade would act as Prime Minister and Sir Garfield Barwick, Attorney-General, would act as Minister for External Affairs.

The Minister for the Navy, Senator Gorton, who has been assisting the Prime Minister with the External Affairs portfolio will continue to assist the acting Minister during Mr. Menzies' absence.

Mr. Menzies will leave today by Qantas for the United States on his way to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London and will be away from Australia for about five weeks. He will also preside over a meeting of Heads of Australian Diplomatic Missions in Western Europe and adjacent areas to be held in Geneva next month and will represent Australia at a South East Asia Treaty Organisation Meeting in Bangkok from March 27 to 30.

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CANBERRA,

21st February, 1961.