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SECOND COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

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

The Prime Minister announced today that Australia would be represented at a Commonwealth Education Conference to be held from 11th to 25th January, 1962. At the invitation of the Indian Government, the Conference will be held in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister added that the Conference would be the successor to the Commonwealth Education Conference held at Oxford in July, 1959, at which plans were made for various kinds of educational co-operation between member countries of the British Commonwealth.

The Conference will review progress to date and make further plans for developing the scheme of co-operation between countries of the Commonwealth. One of the major activities decided at the Oxford Conference was the institution of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan whereby scholarships are awarded for students to study at universities in other parts of the Commonwealth, mainly at post-graduate level. Australia has awarded scholarships to 32 students from 15 Commonwealth countries and some 60 Australian students have received awards for overseas.

Commonwealth countries also undertook to assist emerging member nations to develop their education systems and Australia's contribution has been the provision of training for specialist teachers, arranging study tours for African educators and supplying Australian educational personnel for key posts in these countries.

CANBERRA,

7th June, 1961.