

EXTENSION OF THE PERIOD OF OPERATION OF THE
1956/1961 SUGAR AGREEMENT

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

The Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, announced today that the Commonwealth Government and the Queensland Government had agreed to extend until 31st May, 1962, the period of operation of the 1956/61 Sugar Agreement, which would otherwise have expired on 31st August, 1961.

Mr. Menzies said that his Government had decided last year that an examination of the sugar industry should be carried out before steps were taken to enter into a new sugar agreement with the Queensland Government when the 1956/61 Agreement expired. Accordingly the Sugar Enquiry Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. M.E. McCarthy, C.B.E., was appointed to investigate the circumstances of the sugar and fruit industries and their relationship. The Committee had been asked to furnish its report if possible not later than May 1961, but owing to the wide scope of the investigation and some unexpected difficulties the Committee had been unable to complete its report in the time proposed.

Mr. Menzies said that since the current Agreement was due to expire on 31st August and the Committee's report was still not available the Commonwealth Government and the Queensland Government had decided that the existing Agreement would need to be extended for the further period necessary to enable full consideration of the report, the framing of a new formal Agreement mutually acceptable to both Governments and the introduction of the necessary legislation.

CANBERRA,

1st September, 1961.