

MINISTER FOR TRADE TO GO OVERSEAS

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

The Minister for Trade, Mr. McEwen, will be leaving on Sunday on his visit to North America and Europe for discussions concerning the problems for Australia of the United Kingdom's request to join the Common Market, and also for consultation on other important related problems dealing with our commodity exports.

Mr. McEwen has arranged for a final briefing session on the West Coast of America with the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Trade (Mr. G. Warwick Smith) and other Australian officials. Mr. G. Warwick Smith has been engaged for some 6 weeks in Europe on work closely related to the purpose of Mr. McEwen's visit and will be on his way back to Australia where he will be Acting Secretary of the Department of Trade while the Secretary (Dr. W.A. Westerman) is overseas with the Minister.

When Mr. McEwen's discussions in Washington are completed, he will then visit Ottawa before proceeding to the United Kingdom and Europe.

CANBERRA,

1st March, 1962.