

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The following statement is issued simultaneously in London, Canberra and Wellington at 3 p.m. (E.S.T.) tonight. In London, by Buckingham Palace; in Australia, by the Acting Prime Minister; and in New Zealand, by the Prime Minister -

"The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, at the invitation of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, will visit New Zealand and Australia in February-March of 1963. They will spend about a fortnight in New Zealand, before proceeding to Australia for about four weeks, where they will pay a necessarily brief visit to each State. They will be in Canberra during the celebrations in connection with the 50th Anniversary Year of the Capital."

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr. McEwen, adds the following statement -

"This news will be received with the greatest of pleasure by all Australians. Every one of Her Majesty's subjects in Australia will be delighted to know that Our Queen and His Royal Highness have been pleased to accept the invitation, extended on behalf of the Government by Mr. Menzies during his recent visit to London, to spend some time with us early next year. Her Majesty and Prince Philip will receive the very warmest welcome. Whilst the prime purpose of the visit will be to celebrate Canberra's Jubilee Year, I am sure that all Australians will be pleased to know that The Queen and The Duke will visit each State, even though these visits will be short.

Canberra,
21st June, 1962.

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

The precise date of The Queen's arrival in Australia and the point of arrival are not yet known. It is expected, however, that Her Majesty will arrive in Canberra about the middle of February and will visit the States before returning to Canberra for the Jubilee Celebrations on 12th March, 1963.

"Canberra" was named by Lady Denman, wife of the then Governor-General, on 12th March, 1913. This was part of an historic ceremony held on Capital Hill immediately behind the present Parliament House building. On that day the Governor-General, Lord Denman, the Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher and the Minister for Home Affairs, King O'Malley each laid a Foundation Stone of a Commencement Column.

Her Majesty will travel by air.

Canberra,
21st June, 1962.