

ROYAL TOUR

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

I am now in a position to announce certain tentative arrangements for the forthcoming visit to Australia of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh.

It is expected that the Royal couple will arrive in Canberra by air from New Zealand on Monday, February 18. Thereafter, they will engage in a tour which will take them into all six States and the Northern Territory.

The precise amount of time to be spent in each State has yet to be determined though it is unlikely in any instance to exceed three days.

Her Majesty has made known her wish that her visits to the States should be associated, if possible, with some event of special significance. As a result, the exact itinerary cannot be announced until the States have themselves made their proposals and these have been communicated to the Queen.

However, it seems likely that the general order of the visits after Canberra will be South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, return to Canberra, then visit the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Her Majesty has also made known her desire to use the Royal Yacht "Britannia" at various stages of her tour. Realising that this will reduce the periods in which she will be in direct contact with her Australian people, she has herself volunteered to extend the length of the visit beyond the month originally contemplated and her departure from Perth by air for the United Kingdom will now take place on 27th March.

It is expected that the use of the "Britannia" will produce a number of agreeable results. It will allow Her Majesty to enter some of the Australian cities from the seaward. Further, she will be able to achieve rest while moving from point to point; and the Royal Yacht will be available for such entertaining as Her Majesty may choose to do.

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CANBERRA,

6th July, 1962.