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EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET

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

"I am expecting to receive a message from Mr. Macmillan which will, no doubt, convey some assessment of the present position and of the future possibilities. I will have this matter discussed when Cabinet meets on Tuesday next. Meanwhile, it should not be overlooked that the result of the breaking-off of the negotiations is that the existing Commonwealth trading arrangements continue.

Whether any move should be made, however, to alter these arrangements or to strengthen them in any way or to make any fresh departure will be matters that will need to be discussed by the Cabinet itself."

On the question of an early meeting of Prime Ministers, Mr. Menzies said he would not offer any views until he had discussed it with the Cabinet. "It must be remembered," he said, "that any meeting of Prime Ministers required some preparatory work and some clear idea of the nature and content of the matters to be discussed."

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CANBEPRA,

30th January, 1963.