

FOR PRESS :

P.M. NO. 39/1963

DEATH OF NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia has sent the following message to Mrs. Johnson :-

"ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE I EXPRESS TO YOU OUR DEEPEST SORROW AT THE DEATH OF YOUR HUSBAND, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. HE HAS BEEN A DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND HIS COUNTRY AND HIS PASSING WILL BE A GREAT LOSS.

AUSTRALIA HAS ALSO LOST A TRUE FRIEND. I SHOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS SAD TIME.

R. G. MENZIES  
PRIME MINISTER"

The following message has been sent to the Prime Minister of New Zealand from the Prime Minister of Australia :-

"MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE MOST DISTRESSED AT THE SUDDEN DEATH OF YOUR HIGH COMMISSIONER. SYD JOHNSTON HAD BECOME A WELL-KNOWN AND POPULAR FIGURE HERE AND DID VERY GOOD SERVICE FOR THE CO-OPERATION OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE WILL BE VERY MUCH MISSED. WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES AND YOUR COUNTRY."

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CANBERRA,

10th May, 1963.