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JUBILEE OF ANZAC

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

The Commonwealth Government has decided to mark the Jubilee of the landing at Gallipoli on April 25th, 1915, by the inauguration of a ceremonial way leading from a point near the shores of Lake Burley Griffin up to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

"I believe all Australians and certainly the ex-service organizations in each State will wish to emphasise this outstanding event in our history," said Sir Robert, "but I am sure the Australian people would wish the Commonwealth Government to make a special gesture worthy of the occasion. The Returned Servicemen's League had suggested that Anzac Parade should be developed for this purpose, and the Government had come to the conclusion that this was a highly suitable idea."

The Prime Minister said that in the long-term planning of Canberra, an opportunity had been provided for the development at the right time of a ceremonial way of high quality. The Government believes it is now appropriate to go forward with the construction of this feature, which will provide the setting for important processions, remembrance marches and other ceremonies which from time to time will be associated with facets of Australian history, and particularly our military history.

Planning for the ceremonial way will call for the substantial re-development of the existing landscape, with provision for Australian trees of selected species, with some representative flora from New Zealand. The ceremonial way will be paved and can be ornamented subsequently by statuary and other sculptural works. The total landscape will form part of the design of the central axis around which the central areas of the national capital have been planned, and will finally establish the character of these areas. The monumental way would stand and be developed over generations as a memorial of enduring quality.

It is proposed that all development works establishing the character of this ceremonial way will have been completed by the 50th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in April, 1965.

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CANBERRA,

1st November, 1963.