

FOR PRESS :

P.M. 23/1964

AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION AT MacARTHUR
FUNERAL

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

The Prime Minister (Sir Robert Menzies) announced today that Australia would be represented at the funeral of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur by the Australian Ambassador to the United States, Sir Howard Beale, K.B.E., Q.C., the Rt. Hon. F.M. Forde and General Sir John Northcott, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.

The Head of the Australian Joint Services Staff in Washington, Major General C. Long, C.B.E., will represent the Australian Military Services at the funeral which takes place on Saturday, April 11.

Mr. Forde and Sir John Northcott will leave Sydney by air for the United States tomorrow (Thursday) evening and will arrive in Washington on Friday morning (Washington time).

CANBERRA,
8th April, 1964.

BACKGROUND NOTE : Mr. Forde was Minister for the Army and Deputy Prime Minister in 1942, when General MacArthur arrived in Australia to establish his headquarters here and he continued to be Minister for the Army throughout the period in which General MacArthur was stationed in Australia.

Sir John Northcott, a former Governor of New South Wales, was Chief of the General Staff from 1942 to 1945 and was Commander of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan in 1945/46. Both of these appointments brought him into close contact with the late General MacArthur.
