FOR PRESS:

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EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, last week sent the following message to the Acting Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Abba Eban:-

"You will have heard from your Ambassador that, on medical advice, I am required to cancel my visit to Israel next week. This gives me personally and officially the greatest possible regret. I would like you to know how grateful I am for the invitation extended to me by your Prime Minister and for the arrangements which you and your colleagues had made to receive me. I am most disappointed not to be able to visit Israel at this time. I would like you to convey my personal regrets also to the President of Israel, Mr. Zalman Shazar."

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, has received the following message from Mr. Abba Eban, Acting Prime Minister of Israel:

"While I am naturally disappointed by your inability to be with us this week, my first thought and that of my colleagues is for your rapid restoration to complete health. Please accept Israel's best wishes for your recuperation together with an expression of hope that we may have the privilege of receiving you in our country in the near future."

CANBERRA,

17th June, 1964.