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TRIBUTE TO SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

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

After a prolonged period of illness, Sir Winston Churchill's death was not unexpected. But it comes as a shock.

At the height of his power and achievement, he "bestrode the world like a colossus" but, being no tyrant or dictator, he left all men in his debt.

He was one of the great men in the whole course of British history and in the history of the struggle for freedom. As Prime Minister, he faced the greatest challenge of our lifetimes. He met it with courage and imaginative genius.

He was able to express and stimulate the spirit of his people by his immortal mixture of tenacity and humour, harsh realism and indomitable optimism. So long as men retain their pride in liberty, he will never be forgotten.

Through the many vicissitudes of his sometimes turbulent and always brilliant career, his wife, that marvellous woman, was with him. She will, I hope and know, get some comfort from the love which goes out to her from so many millions of people at this time.

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CANBERRA,  
25th January, 1965