

P.M. 8/1965

EMBARGO - NOT TO BE PUBLISHED, CABLED, BROADCAST OR TELECAST
BEFORE 11.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 25TH JANUARY 1965

65/018

FOR PRESS -

VISIT BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Statement by The Acting Prime Minister, The Right Hon. J. McEWEN, MP.

The Acting Prime Minister announced to-day that His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh would open the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra on Monday, 22nd February. Mr. McEwen said that the Government was extremely pleased that His Royal Highness had agreed to include this as one of his engagements while in the National Capital.

The Duke of Edinburgh is Chairman of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee in London and takes a keen interest in that Committee.

The opening of the Mint will be the only public engagement which His Royal Highness will undertake in Canberra. He will, however, attend Divine Service at St. John's Church, Reid, on Sunday, 21st February and in the evening will dine at 'The Lodge' with the Prime Minister and Dame Pattie Menzies.

After opening the Mint on Monday morning, His Royal Highness will attend a luncheon at Parliament House to which the Ministry, the Presiding Officers of Parliament and the Opposition Leaders will be invited.

Mr. McEwen said that His Royal Highness will arrive in Australia on Saturday morning, 20th February and travel from Sydney Airport to Canberra by R.A.A.F. Viscount. He will return to Sydney on Monday afternoon, 22nd February and leave for Singapore

.../2.

on Friday, 26th February.

Mr. McEwen said that the primary purpose of The Duke's visit is to deliver the first Dunrossil Memorial Lecture to the Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers in Sydney. While it would be disappointing to some that The Duke of Edinburgh would not be able to visit all States, Mr. McEwen said that all Australians would be delighted that His Royal Highness would be here to deliver a Lecture named after a former Governor-General who in his tragically short term of office had won a lasting place in the Nation's affections.

Background Note -

The announcement of the programme of engagements which His Royal Highness will undertake in Sydney will be announced separately by the Premier of New South Wales.