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BEFORE 11.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 1965

FOR PRESS -

Visit by T.R.H. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester
Canberra Programme

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister the Right Hon. John
McEwen, M.P.

The Acting Prime Minister to-night announced the engagements which Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester have been pleased to accept for the two occasions when they are in Canberra from Saturday, 13th to Wednesday, 17th March and again from Friday 23rd to Monday, 26th April.

Mr. McEwen said that The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will arrive in Canberra on Saturday morning, 13th March. Their Royal Highnesses will travel from Sydney Airport to Canberra by R.A.A.F. Viscount following their arrival from overseas.

In Canberra The Duke and Duchess will stay at Government House until they leave for Tasmania on Wednesday afternoon, 17th March. Thereafter Their Royal Highnesses will spend some time both officially and privately in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. They will return to Canberra from Brisbane on Friday afternoon, 23rd April and on Monday, 26th April, will leave for Sydney in transit for their return to London.

In announcing the programme of engagements for Canberra, Mr. McEwen said that Their Royal Highnesses, on arrival at the R.A.A.F. Base, Fairbairn, will be met by the Governor-General, accompanied by The Honourable Anne Sidney, and by the Prime Minister and Dame Pattie Menzies. The R.A.A.F.

will provide a Royal Guard of Honour which His Royal Highness will inspect.

On Sunday, 14th March, Their Royal Highnesses will attend Divine Service at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Reid, and on return to Government House, will meet Press, Radio and Television Representatives. In the evening they will dine at The Lodge with the Prime Minister and Dame Pattie Menzies.

On Monday morning, 15th March, His Royal Highness will make an informal visit to the Royal Military College, and Her Royal Highness will undertake separately a brief tour of Canberra. They will both have luncheon with the Commonwealth High Commissioners and their wives at Canberra House, the residence of the British High Commissioner. In the evening, they will attend a dinner party at Government House.

On Tuesday, 16th March, Their Royal Highnesses will visit the National Capital Development Commission's Planning Exhibition at Regatta Point, and afterwards drive to Civic Centre to observe the development of Canberra's main commercial area in recent years. They will then return to Government House.

Mr. McEwen said that the Government's official function will be a luncheon at Parliament House on Tuesday, 16th March. In the evening, The Duke and Duchess will dine at Government House. The following day, Wednesday, 17th March, The Duke and Duchess will leave Canberra to visit Tasmania.

On their return to Canberra from Brisbane, in the late afternoon of Friday, 23rd April, Their Royal Highnesses

will again stay at Government House and on Saturday will visit the National Headquarters of the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A. where The Duke and Duchess will each plant a tree. In the evening, Their Royal Highnesses will meet Anzac Veterans at Government House.

On Anzac Day, The Duke and Duchess will attend the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Anzac Landing at Gallipoli. His Royal Highness will take the Salute during the march past by ANZAC Veterans, other Ex-Servicemen and women, and members of the Armed Forces.

On Monday, 26th April, Their Royal Highnesses will leave Canberra from the R.A.A.F. Base, Fairbairn. This will again be a ceremonial occasion, with a Royal Guard of Honour being mounted.

Mr. McEwen said it was eighteen years since The Duke and Duchess had resided at Government House, Canberra, and he was sure that Their Royal Highnesses would enjoy seeing the many changes which have taken place, not only in the National Capital, but wherever else they happened to be during their stay.

Mr. McEwen referred to the programme of engagements which The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester have agreed to undertake while they are in Australia and said that comprehensive formal visits imposed a severe physical strain and therefore he was pleased to see that Their Royal Highnesses would spend some of their time privately, revisiting personal friends and places already known to them.

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