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DECENTRALISATION CONFERENCE

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

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, said in Canberra today that Commonwealth and State officials had concluded a two-day Conference on the subject of decentralisation. Preparations had been made for this meeting following agreement at the Premiers' Conference in July last year that there was a need to pool the knowledge possessed by the States and the Commonwealth on the problems of decentralisation, identify what was best to be done and how the objectives might be achieved.

The representatives of the States at the Conference were :-

New South Wales	Mr. E.J. Walder (Under Secretary and Comptroller of Accounts, the Treasury)
	Mr. W. Butterfield (Director of Industrial Development and Decentralisation)
Victoria	Mr. N.T. Howard (Director, Division of State Development)
Queensland	Sir James Holt (Co-ordinator-General of Department of Public Works)
South Australia	Mr. E.J. Carey (Assistant Under Treasurer)
Western Australia	Mr. S.J. Lewis (Decentralisation Officer, Department of Industrial Development)
Tasmania	Mr. J.B. Menshelwood (Director, Industrial Development Branch, Premier's and Chief Secretary's Department).

The Commonwealth Departments participating were Treasury, Trade and Industry, National Development, Labour and National Service, Primary Industry and Prime Minister's. The Conference was under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister's Department.

Sir Robert said the meeting had been of a preliminary nature. Following this initial meeting, he would be in touch with the State Premiers about further work to be undertaken.

CANBERRA,
6th March, 1965.