

FOR PRESS :

P.M. No. 29/1965

BUSH FIRES

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

I deeply regret to learn of the disastrous bush fires which are now sweeping the southern area of Australia and of the great personal hardship which has fallen on so many people in consequence of these terrible fires.

I extend my warm sympathy to those who are suffering, and to those particularly who have suffered the loss of loved ones, I extend my deepest personal sympathy.

The Commonwealth Government is doing all possible to assist in the emergency. The Army has 520 troops in the Bairnsdale area of Victoria and approximately 85 in the Bundanoon and Camden areas of New South Wales. These troops are equipped with vehicles, radio and fire-fighting equipment and medical orderlies are standing by.

As usual the Commonwealth Government stands ready to join with the State Governments in financing schemes for the relief of personal hardship and distress on a pound for pound basis with the States.

---

CANBERRA,

7th March, 1965.