

65/049

FOR PRESS :

P.M. 30/1965

BUSHFIRES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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

On Sunday I expressed the Commonwealth Government's deep sympathy with the many people who had suffered great personal hardship as a result of the bushfires which were sweeping the southern area of Australia. I said at that time that the Commonwealth was prepared to help wherever possible and would match funds provided by the State Governments in financing schemes for the relief of personal hardship and distress.

I have since received a request for financial assistance from the Premier of New South Wales and I have informed him today that the Commonwealth Government will provide, as requested, an initial amount of up to £50,000 on a £ for £ basis with the Government of New South Wales towards a bushfire relief scheme to be put into operation immediately.

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CANBERRA,

10th March, 1965.