

FOR PRESS

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VISIT BY HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER
STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. SIR ROBERT MENZIES,
K.T., C.H., Q.C., K.P.

The Prime Minister announced in Canberra today that the following statement had been issued from Clarence House, London:-

"Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has accepted invitations from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to visit those countries during March and April next year.

"Queen Elizabeth will travel to Australia by air in the latter part of March and, after attending the Fourth Adelaide Festival of Arts, of which Her Majesty is Patron, will spend two or three weeks in South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

"At the end of her time in Australia, Queen Elizabeth will join the Royal Yacht "Britannia", in which Her Majesty will be based for a visit of about three weeks to New Zealand, at the end of which Queen Elizabeth will return by air to England."

The Prime Minister warmly welcomed the announcement of the visit to Australia by Her Majesty The Queen Mother. He recalled how deeply disa pointed Her Majesty had been when her proposed visit in 1964 had to be cancelled and said that he was delighted at the prospect of Queen Elizabeth once again seeing something of Australia and of the Australian people.

Sir Robert said that he was particularly pleased that Her Majesty would be able to attend the Fourth Adelaide Festival of Arts, which was indeed the prime purpose of the visit.

The Prime Minister stated that while precise dates for the visit had yet to be decided, it would not be possible for Queen Elizabeth to be in Adelaide for the official opening of the Festival. Her Majesty, however, would be in Adelaide for the greater part of the second week of the Festival. The visit to Australia would then extend into early April when Her Majesty would leave in the Royal Yacht for New Zealand.