

FOR PRESS :

P.M. No. 14/1966

TRIBUTE TO SIR ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SIR ROBERT MENZIES

I have sent the following message today to the Australian High Commissioner in Nigeria :-

"I had a very warm regard for Sir Abubakar as a man whose company I always enjoyed at conferences of Prime Ministers. I also had a great respect for him as a leader - clear minded, sagacious, tolerant and just.

"His death has come as a great shock to many of us who had come to believe that the principle of constitutional government and of peaceful rule were especially illustrated in Nigeria.

I would like to extend to the Nigerian people my most profound hopes for a happier future."

CANBERRA,
24th January, 1966.