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BARBADOS INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

The Prime Minister, Mr. Holt, announced today that Sir Keith Wilson would represent the Australian Government on the occasion of the independence of Barbados.

Barbados, which has been a British Colony since the seventeenth century, will achieve independence on 30th November. Celebrations to mark the event will be held in the capital, Bridgetown, between 28th November and 3rd December.

Barbados has expressed a wish to become a member of the Commonwealth, and Australia, along with other Commonwealth nations, has agreed to welcome it into the Commonwealth association and to sponsor its application for membership of the United Nations. Barbados will become the 26th member of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Holt said that Sir Keith Wilson would carry with him a congratulatory message conveying the very warm wishes of the Government and people of Australia. Sir Keith would present the Government of Barbados with an Australian landscape and library of Australian books, and the Barbados Legislature with a desk set from the Australian Parliament.

Sir Keith Wilson is a distinguished former member of the Australian Parliament. He was elected to the Senate in 1937 and, after serving in the Middle East theatre in the AIF, was elected in 1949 to the House of Representatives as the Member for Sturt, which he has represented continuously since 1955. Sir Keith was a member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations in 1964.

CANBERRA.

21st November, 1966.