

FOR PRESS:

P. M. No. 20/1967

COMMONWEALTH AID TO TASMANIA

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

I wish to make it clear that contribution by the Commonwealth of \$250,000 to help meet urgent cases of hardship which come to the notice of the Tasmanian Government is merely the first advance of the Commonwealth's bushfire assistance.

I have already assured Mr. Reece and stated publicly that the Commonwealth Government recognises that Tasmania, being a small State with limited resources, will need more assistance in other directions such as with re-housing and rehabilitation of industry.

I told Mr. Reece that the meeting previously arranged for next week of the Commonwealth and Premiers would provide a convenient opportunity to discuss these problems in the light of assessments made by then.

I am sure the other State Premiers who have all sent messages of sympathy will be glad to join with the Commonwealth in doing what we can to help Tasmania through this disaster as speedily as possible.

CANBERRA,
10th February, 1967.