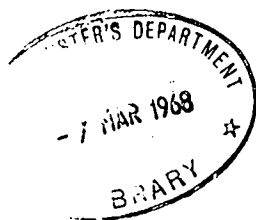


FOR PRESS:



PM. No. 26/1968

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND

The Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton, has accepted an invitation by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Keith Holyoake, to visit New Zealand next month. He plans to make the visit at the end of March and to be in New Zealand for about three days.

This will be Mr Gorton's first visit outside Australia since becoming Prime Minister and will satisfy a wish he has had to take an early opportunity to make a goodwill visit to New Zealand.

The visit is a further expression to mark the close and continuing bonds of kinship and common endeavour existing between the two countries and the desire of each to see intimate relationships preserved and developed. It will provide an occasion for discussions with Mr Holyoake and his colleagues on matters of mutual interest.

Mr Gorton has accepted an invitation to open the New Zealand Easter Show at Auckland on 30 March.

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CANBERRA,  
28 February 1968

Background Note

The late Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt, visited New Zealand in February of last year. This was the first visit to New Zealand by an Australian Prime Minister since 1954.