



FOR PRESS:

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N. S. W. BUSHFIRES: COMMONWEALTH AID

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

I was distressed to hear of the shocking bushfires around Sydney and on the south coast of New South Wales.

I would like the relatives of those who have lost their lives in the fires to know that they have the deepest sympathy of the Commonwealth Government and, I am sure, of all Australians. Our sympathy is also extended to those people who have lost their homes and other material possessions in the fires.

I understand that the New South Wales Government has set aside \$50,000 for relief.

I have today sent a telegram to the Premier of New South Wales telling him that the Commonwealth Government stands ready to assist his Government on a \$ for \$ basis for the relief of personal hardship and distress suffered by those people affected by the fires.

CANBERRA
30 October 1968