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PRIME MINISTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FORCES

The Prime Minister has sent the following message to members of the Australian forces serving in Australia and overseas:-

"On behalf of the people of Australia, I send to all Australian servicemen and women my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Wherever you may be serving, each one of you is making a contribution to the security of Australia and to the stability of our part of the world.

In particular, our thoughts are with those of you whose duties will prevent you spending Christmas with your families. At no time in our history, outside the period of the Great World Wars, have we had so many Australians serving overseas. Some of you are in the front lines, facing danger, hardship and discomfort. Others are on active service in areas where your presence helps protect the peace of friendly nations.

But at home or abroad, you are all serving Australia well, and are doing a job of which you can be proud. It is a pride shared by your families and by the nation.

In these challenging days of change on the international scene, our Defence Forces are playing - and will continue to play - a vital role for Australia's well-being.

Thank you. Good luck and Happy Christmas to you all."

CANBERRA
23 December 1968