

EMBARGO: NOT TO BE CABLED, BROADCAST OR TELECAST
BEFORE 7.00 P. M. E. S. T. MONDAY 30 DECEMBER 1968

FOR PRESS:

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VISIT BY THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUKE
AND DUCHESS OF KENT

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Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Prime Minister announced in Canberra this evening that the following statement had been issued from the Buckinghamshire residence of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent:-

"It was announced from Coppins that The Duke and Duchess of Kent have accepted with very much pleasure an invitation from the Australian Government to visit the Territory of Papua and New Guinea in August 1969, when The Duke will open the Third South Pacific Games at Port Moresby on 14 August.

"Their Royal Highnesses have accepted also with much pleasure an invitation subsequently to visit Darwin, which will be celebrating the centenary of its establishment, the Northern Territory, South and West Australia.

"The Duke and Duchess are expected to begin their visit in Canberra from where they will travel to Port Moresby for the Games."

The Prime Minister warmly welcomed the announcement of the proposed visit to Australia by Their Royal Highnesses. He said that he was delighted at the prospect of The Duke and Duchess of Kent making their first visit to Australia. He recalled the deep affection the Australian people had shown for the late Princess Marina, The Duke of Kent's mother, when she visited Australia in 1964 and their sadness at the time of the death of Prince Edward's father on Active Service in 1942 shortly before he was to have taken up the appointment of Governor-General of Australia.

Mr. Gorton said that while precise dates for the visit had yet to be decided, consultations will take place to prepare an itinerary and the details will be announced as soon as possible.

CANBERRA
30 December 1968