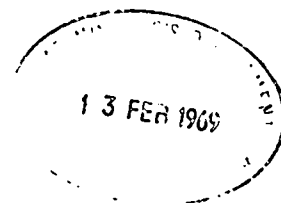


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NUCLEAR POWER IN AUSTRALIA

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton



The Commonwealth has been in contact with the States about matters associated with the introduction of nuclear power into Australia.

The Government feels that the time is coming much closer when nuclear power can be competitive with other forms of power in a number of areas of Australia. There are many considerations which would be of common concern to the Commonwealth and the States, and we feel it is opportune to examine the various matters involved.

The Government has proposed that the Minister for National Development, Mr. David Fairbairn, should visit the States and have discussions with appropriate State Ministers and authorities regarding introduction of nuclear power into Australia in the future. These discussions would be most useful as a basis for initiating steps toward the introduction of nuclear power into the country, including types of reactors, and ensuring that those reactors would be independent of overseas fuel supplies.

CANBERRA
6 February 1969