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DROUGHT RELIEF FOR QUEENSLAND

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Commonwealth Government announced on 11 March that, in view of the recurrence of drought conditions over a large area of Queensland, the Commonwealth was prepared to participate with the Queensland Government on a \$ for \$ basis in the provision of finance for drought relief measures.

In Canberra today the Queensland Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) and the Treasurer (Mr. Chalk) asked the Commonwealth to consider giving assistance in the form of direct grants if the present seasonal conditions in Queensland continued after the end of this financial year.

I told the Premier and the Treasurer that the Commonwealth Government would be prepared to consider this matter in the light of the seasonal conditions at the time.

CANBERRA
13 March 1969