

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SPEECH

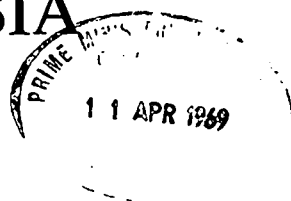
BY

The Rt Hon. J. G. GORTON, M.P.

ON

AID TO INDONESIA

(Ministerial Statement)



[From the 'Parliamentary Debates', 27 March 1969]

Mr GORTON (Higgins—Prime Minister) —by leave—I wish to inform the House that the Government has decided to increase its aid to Indonesia from the \$12.7m which is provided this financial year to \$15m in 1969-70. In addition it has been decided to commit in advance a total of \$4m to finance economic development projects up to an expenditure of \$2m in each of the years 1970-71 and 1971-72. The Government has made this decision at this time in advance of the Budget for 1969-70 because Indonesia is still faced with very serious and highly complicated problems in its efforts to regain economic stability. The decision will serve to emphasise once again the great importance the Government attaches to helping its closest and largest neighbours to achieve a proper and adequate rate of economic growth.

The \$15m will be used largely to continue an aid programme of the same kind as has been established in 1967-68 and 1968-69. Although I am not able to give specific details of the programme for 1969-70 until

further discussions have been held with the Indonesian Government I can say that the funds are intended to be used for programmes basically the same as those undertaken in the last 2 years—that is, for balance of payments support, imports of commodities, economic development projects and technical assistance including offers of training awards in Australia. I might add that other donor countries are also making special efforts to assist the continued rehabilitation and development of the Indonesian economy. The United States of America, the Netherlands, Britain and Belgium have between them so far pledged approximately \$US181m as aid to Indonesia in 1969. These pledges are being made towards meeting Indonesia's requirement for foreign aid in 1969, which has been estimated at \$US500m. I present the following paper:

Aid to Indonesia—Ministerial statement, 27 March 1969

and move:

That the House take note of the paper.