



FOR PRESS:

P. M. No. 41/1969

COMMEMORATIVE AIR RACE

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Commonwealth Government will give its support to a proposed air race from England to Australia to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic flight by Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith in 1919.

We have offered a grant of \$25,000 towards the cost of the project, which the Royal Federation of Aero Clubs of Australia is planning to stage at the end of this year. The Commonwealth offer is made subject to the Federation demonstrating that it can raise sufficient finance from other sources to carry the project through successfully. The Government would also provide a trophy for the winning crew.

Arrangements are being made to associate the air race with the celebrations of the Captain Cook Bicentenary.

The aircraft would, as far as practicable, follow the same route as the Smith brothers, touching into their home town of Adelaide, before going on to Sydney.

CANBERRA
22 May 1969