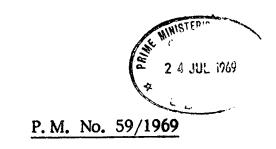
FOR PRESS:



EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF OPERATION OF THE 1962 COMMONWEALTH/QUEENSLAND SUGAR AGREEMENT

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have agreed to extend until 31 August 1969 the period of operation of the 1962 Commonwealth/Queensland Sugar Agreement which would otherwise have expired on 30 June 1969.

The Sugar Agreement provides for the regulation of the Australian sugar industry and the marketing of sugar in Australia to the benefit of both producers and consumers.

At the present time the two Governments are negotiating a new Sugar Agreement and this, when finalised, will have retrospective effect from 1 July 1969.

The short-term extension is necessary in order to preserve the benefits of the 1962 Agreement until the arrangements for the new Agreement are finalised.

CANBERRA 18 July 1969