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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE FORCES

The Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton, has sent the following message to the Australian forces:-

"To all Australian servicemen and women at home and abroad, I send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Speaking on behalf of the Government and your fellow Australians, I want you to know that we appreciate your contribution to our security and well-being.

In particular, our thoughts at this time are with those of you who are separated from your families, and especially those serving in Vietnam. You are doing a vital job for Australia, and for the stability of that part of the world in which we live.

To you all, wherever you may be serving, I say a very warm "thank you". I wish you as happy a Christmas as circumstances will permit, and a safe and successful New Year.

While we look hopefully to the seventies for a peaceful solution to world problems, there is no doubt that Australia will continue to depend on its Armed Forces to guarantee security and progress in the decade ahead.

Sincerely,  
JOHN GORTON."

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CANBERRA  
23 December 1969