

FOR PRESS:

P. M. NO. 91/1969

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO THE NATION

From the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

Today we begin a new decade - as well as a year of special significance to all Australians.

For we will, in this year, celebrate the bicentenary of Captain Cook's discovery of a completely undeveloped land - and we will begin a decade of development unparalleled in Australia's past history.

I believe that this decade will see us grow in strength and wealth as our industry expands and our population grows.

I believe that this decade will see a final and successful attack on the poverty in our midst.

I believe that our increasing wealth will make possible greater opportunities for all - and will open the way to the individual to develop his talents to the utmost and to find self expression and satisfaction in his chosen sphere of work.

The prospects are glittering. We will need to increase our capacity to defend what we build; we will need to help other countries; above all we will need to work together to attain what time and circumstances now make possible.

And if we do this - but only if we do this - 1970 will be a year of achievement and the 1970's a memorable decade.

I wish all Australians every happiness and success in the New Year, and throughout the new decade.

CANBERRA
31 December 1969