

FOR PRESS

P. M. No. 6/1970

DRILLING ON THE BARRIER REEF

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton, said that he was very pleased indeed to receive the information from Ampol Exploration that they were not proceeding with their intention of drilling on the Barrier Reef pending a thorough examination of the question of whether any damage might occur.

He stated his belief that the Barrier Reef was of such importance to Australia and to world science that it was essential that there should be not the slightest chance of any damage occurring from such drilling and congratulated Ampol Exploration on their nationally responsible attitude.

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CANBERRA  
14 January 1970