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PROGRAMME FOR ROYAL VISIT

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Queen has been pleased to approve a detailed programme for the Royal Visit to Australia later this year.

The Visit, Her Majesty's third to this country, will begin in Sydney on Monday 30 March and end in Sydney on Sunday 3 May. The Duke of Edinburgh and The Princess Anne will be accompanying The Queen throughout the Visit, while The Prince of Wales will be here for the first 10 days.

Celebrations marking the Cook Bicentenary will be highlights of the tour, which will take the Royal Visitors to New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and the A. C. T. In Sydney, The Queen will attend the re-enactment of the landing of Captain Cook and, at Her Majesty's request, the programme generally features those aspects of the Australian way of life that have historic links with the days of the first settlement, such as agriculture, mining and transportation. As well, the importance of education and hospitals in the development of the country will be recognised.

In agriculture, for example, the Royal Family will visit an apple orchard in Tasmania to see crops being picked and prepared for overseas markets, inspect a wool store in Victoria, and attend the National Sheep Dog Trial Championships in Canberra.

In Queensland, the tour will include a visit to the Mt. Isa mines, while in Townsville Her Majesty will give Royal Assent to the Bill granting autonomy to the University of North Queensland.

The Queen will lead the nation in the observance of Anzac Day at a ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and will give a talk to the nation over television and radio on Sunday 26 April.

Her Majesty will undertake a final official engagement only an hour before departure for London. This will be the opening of the new International Terminal at Sydney Airport.

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In planning the tour, organisers have kept in mind the wishes of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh to meet as many people as possible from different sections of the community. Informality will be the essence of the visit.

On some occasions, The Prince of Wales and The Princess Anne will have their own programmes. These engagements have been designed to enable Their Royal Highnesses to meet young people and to find out for themselves something of the community and recreational and other interests of Australians of their own age.

I am confident that I speak for all Australians when I say we are delighted that The Queen and members of her family will be visiting us and helping us to celebrate our 200th anniversary. They are assured of a warm welcome.

CANBERRA
18 January 1970

- Note:
- (a) The programme of engagements for the A. C. T. is attached.
 - (b) The Premiers of the States being visited are making simultaneous release of their respective programmes.
 - (c) A comprehensive programme of the visit to Australia is being made available to news media in the capital cities being visited.