

FOR PRESS :

PM. 14/1970

ROYAL VISIT

PRESENTATION OF VICTORIA CROSS AWARDS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

Warrant Officer Class 2 R. S. Simpson, VC, DCM and Warrant Officer Class 2 Keith Payne, VC, who were awarded the Victoria Cross for acts of bravery whilst serving as members of the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam last year, will both receive their awards at Investitures which Her Majesty The Queen will hold during her visit to Australia.

Warrant Officer Simpson, who is still serving with the Training Team in Vietnam, will receive his award at Government House, Sydney on 1 May. Warrant Officer Payne, now an Instructor in Infantry at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, will receive his award in Brisbane aboard H. M. Y. "Britannia" on 13 April.

Warrant Officers Simpson and Payne will be the first Australian Victoria Cross winners to have been presented with their awards personally by The Sovereign in Australia.

CANBERRA,
19 January 1970

(Note : For details of the awards, see Press Statements PM. No. 70/1969 of 21 August and PM. No. 71/1969 of 8 September - copies of which are on the notice board.