

FOR PRESS

P. M. No 21/1970

AUSTRALIA DAY MESSAGE

From the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

This year our National Day has a special significance. Just two hundred years ago Captain Cook made his voyage of discovery along our east coast. And eighteen years later the arrival of the First Fleet set the date which we observe as our National Day.

On this day we can look back on our history and draw hope and inspiration from dangers and difficulties overcome.

And we can reflect on tasks ahead of us and what we should write on the blank pages of history yet to be.

In the seventies - and with thought for what we would wish our country to be at the turn of the century, we can, each of us, reflect on present opportunities and the best method of realising them. Each of us, if we invest time, thought, goodwill and effort, can share in the task of building a nation materially rich, offering self-development to all, and contributing to the welfare of the world community.

We have come far in the last two hundred years.

The spirit and endurance of those who ensured this progress will, I am sure, persist, and will accelerate progress in the future.

CANBERRA
24 January 1970