

FOR PRESS:



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of the Press Secretary

PRIME MINISTER ANSWERS DR. J. CAIRNS

The Prime Minister, Mr. J. G. Gorton, to-day commented on statements by Dr. J. Cairns in the Australian press.

The Prime Minister said :

"Having called for the streets of Melbourne to be taken over, for the traffic to be brought to a stand-still and for commerce and industry to be disrupted, Dr. Cairns has now tried to divert attention from his irresponsible actions by making a personal attack on me.

"If this gives him any satisfaction, it causes me no distress.

"But it doesn't alter the fact that he has called for massive disruption, has indicated that violence will occur if that disruption is prevented and has heralded bringing into the Australian pattern of life the kinds of methods used by storm-troopers.

"Either he or the Labor Party ought to disavow this call for anarchy, and if neither does disavow it, then the people of Australia know the methods the Labor Party is prepared to adopt."

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CANBERRA  
28 March 1970