

FOR PRESS

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COMMONWEALTH CYCLONE ASSISTANCE FOR
QUEENSLAND

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Prime Minister has announced the provision of Commonwealth assistance to the State of Queensland towards the cost of government assets damaged as a result of cyclone "Ada".

Mr. Gorton said that it is the primary responsibility of State Governments to meet the cost of restoring government property damaged by natural disasters such as cyclones. However, where it is considered that such expenditure by a State would impose an undue burden on its financial resources, the Commonwealth is prepared to assist in meeting the cost.

Mr. Gorton said that the amount involved in the present instance would not normally call for the provision of Commonwealth assistance. However, he was mindful that the Queensland Government was already involved in expenditure on natural disaster relief as a result of the widespread drought in the State. . . . in addition the Queensland Government would be sharing with the Commonwealth the cost of relief for personal hardship and distress resulting from the cyclone.

In the circumstances, the Prime Minister said, he was pleased to announce that the Commonwealth was prepared to provide assistance on the basis of one half of the cost to the State Government of the restoration of government assets damaged by cyclone "Ada".

CANBERRA
7 April 1970