

FOR PRESS:

P. M. No 82/1970

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Government will preserve the Sydney Customs House as a National Maritime Museum.

The Premier of New South Wales, who, along with many other interested persons and organisations, has supported this course of action, has been informed.

I am sure that this decision in principle will be welcomed, but the Customs House will be required for its present purpose for many years and it is not possible to say when it will be vacated by the Department of Customs and Excise.

The Customs House was built in 1887 and was the work of the colonial architect, James Barnet, who was responsible for a number of important buildings in Sydney.

CANBERRA
9 August 1970