

FOR PRESS:

P. M. No 101/1970

FIJI INDEPENDENCE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, has sent the following message to the Prime Minister of Fiji to mark Fiji's independence tomorrow :-

"ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF FIJI ON THE OCCASION OF THE ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE AND ADMISSION TO THE COMMONWEALTH.

AUSTRALIA HAS FOLLOWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FIJI WITH CLOSE AND SYMPATHETIC INTEREST AND OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE LONG ENJOYED CORDIAL AND CLOSE RELATIONS. I LOOK FORWARD TO A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THESE RELATIONS IN THE YEARS TO COME."

CANBERRA
9 October 1970