

FOR PRESS:

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 9.00 P.M. WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 1970

P.M. NO. 122/1970

VISIT BY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The following press statement has been released from Buckingham Palace, London at noon today :-

"The Duke of Edinburgh has accepted an invitation to visit Australia in March 1971 to take part in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Royal Australian Air Force. The itinerary will include South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

En route to Australia His Royal Highness will take the opportunity to visit Pacific Island Territories of the Commonwealth some of whom throughout their history have not seen any member of the Royal Family.

Visits will include Pitcairn Island Group, Cook Islands, Western Samoa, Fiji, New Hebrides, British Solomon Islands and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (Kieta, Madang and Port Moresby).

His Royal Highness proposes also to visit the Galapagos Islands and Easter Island.

His Royal Highness will be embarked in H.M. Yacht BRITANNIA for the journey across the Pacific.

H.M. Yacht will subsequently proceed to British Columbia where Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will be embarking for their visit to the Province in connection with the Centenary Celebrations in May 1971."

* * *

The Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, in welcoming the announcement said that His Royal Highness would visit Kieta (17-18 March), Madang (20-22 March), Port Moresby (22-23 March), South Australia (23-26 March), Western Australia (26-30 March) and Canberra (30 March - 1 April).

His Royal Highness plans to leave Australia on Friday 2 April.

The Duke's programme in Australia will provide for Air Force functions in Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. These and other proposed engagements will be submitted as soon as possible to the Palace and will be publicly announced when an approved programme has been decided.

Canberra.
23 December 1970.

