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AUSTRALIA DAY MESSAGE - 1971

From the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

This is the first Australia Day of our third century.

We should regard it as a landmark for new endeavours to make Australia stronger and more self-reliant. I ask all Australians to treat it as a national day in the real sense... as a focus for what we are as a people and what we do as a nation.

We move into our third century with a great many advantages denied to others. We are the only continent in the world inhabited by a single nation and we have in recent years discovered great wealth in our national resources. We have a steadily-increasing population and full employment.

Although we are facing some economic challenges at the present time, we have an economy growing more varied every year. This holds much promise for the future prosperity of our nation.

But we must not forget that there is still a pioneering job to be done. We are taking on new responsibilities in our region and we have great tasks at home to tackle. This is not a time to be content with past achievements or to look for more leisure as a primary industrial goal.

It is a time to work to make sure we come to grips with current problems and to sustain our growth as a nation. It is a time to press ahead with development and expansion, to eliminate poverty, to improve the quality of life, to take a more active interest in protecting our environment, and to support and promote our own Australian culture.

If Australia Day helps to give us an awareness of all this, then it is a national day in the real sense.

CANBERRA,
25 January 1971