

FOR PRESS:

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ADDITIONAL AID FOR EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES
Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. William McMahon

The Government today discussed the plight of East Pakistan refugees in India now aggravated by the serious outbreak of cholera.

It decided to authorise additional assistance of up to \$500,000 for relief to be drawn upon in the light of advice from the authorities in India as to what is most needed.

This amount is additional to the \$500,000 already promised by the Government, of which \$240,000 has already been committed.

Other forms of assistance, including tax deductibility for gifts were considered, but the Government concluded the most effective help it could give was further direct assistance.

Further details of the Government's decision will be announced by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bury, in a subsequent statement.

CANBERRA
8 June 1971