

FOR PRESS :

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SPRINGBOK TOUR

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr William McMahon

The Prime Minister (Mr McMahon) said today that the Government had decided it wanted the South African Airways flight bringing the Springboks to Australia serviced at Perth airport in the normal way.

As a precautionary measure, it had also decided that it will make arrangements, if necessary, for the flight to be refuelled for its departure from Perth. South African Airways have been informed of this decision.

The flight is due to arrive at Perth early tomorrow morning (Saturday).

The Prime Minister also said that RAAF transport assistance will be available if necessary to convey the team to South Australia.

These decisions have been taken by the Government in conformity with its stated policy that it regarded the visit of sporting teams as a non-political matter to be arranged between the sporting bodies concerned.

It is the Government's view that this should not be prevented or prejudiced by some groups within the trade union movement.

Australians are renowned for their fine sporting instincts and sense of fair play.

I ask all Australians to show these great qualities during the visit of the Springboks.

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CANBERRA,  
25 June, 1971