

FOR PRESS:

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Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. William McMahon

This afternoon I asked Mr. Gorton, the Minister for Defence, to see me about his decision to write a series of articles for the "Sunday Australian", the first of which has already been published.

I informed him that, in my opinion, his action breached basic principles of Cabinet solidarity and unity and reflected on the integrity of some Ministers.

I therefore asked Mr. Gorton to let me have his resignation.

This he agreed to do.

I have advised the Governor-General and will shortly recommend the name of a new Minister.

CANBERRA
12 AUGUST 1971