

FOR PRESS:

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CANCELLATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKET TOUR

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. William McMahon

The Government has consistently expressed the view that visits of international sporting teams should be arranged between the sporting bodies concerned and that politics should not be introduced into sport.

Grave practical difficulties are, however, associated with the cricket tour. The Australian Cricket Board is best able to assess these difficulties. It has obviously taken account of the possibility that a minority would be prepared to go to extremes to disrupt the tour.

I appreciate that the great majority of Australians wanted the tour to proceed, but I recognise the Board's problem in arranging a successful tour in the face of the difficulties.

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CANBERRA

8 September 1971