



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS:

PM. No. 75/1972

### INTENDED VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon  
William McMahon, C.H., M.P.

The Prime Minister announced today that it would not now be possible for him to visit Papua New Guinea as planned later this week.

He said he was deeply disappointed that circumstances in Australia had made this change of plans necessary and expressed the hope that it would be possible to visit Papua New Guinea at a later date.

The Prime Minister said he had been looking forward to his discussions with the chief Minister and the new Ministry and to the opportunities which the visit would have provided to meet Papua New Guineans as well as Australians serving in Papua New Guinea.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to all those who had been prepared for his visit and said he was sorry it would not now be possible to undertake the interesting programme that had been planned for him and Mrs. McMahon or to meet with the many people involved.

The Prime Minister said he had spoken personally to the chief Minister Mr. Michael Somare, and had expressed his regret to him and through him to the people of Papua New Guinea.

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CANBERRA,  
31 July, 1972.