



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 11

12 December 1972

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AUSTRALIAN TOUR

The Duke of Edinburgh will make a 15-day tour of Australia in March next year.

The tour is being made in response to an invitation issued earlier this year by the McMahon Government.

A statement issued jointly by Buckingham Palace and the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, last night said:

"The Duke of Edinburgh has accepted with very much pleasure the Australian Government's invitation to visit Australia in March next year as President of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

"The visit is expected to begin in Canberra on Tuesday, 13 March and to conclude in the Northern Territory on Wednesday, 28 March. The States to be visited are, in sequence, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania."

The Duke's visit will be made in his capacity as President of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Mr. Whitlam said he was pleased to learn of the acceptance of the former government's invitation to make the visit as President of the Foundation. In a personal message to the Duke, Mr. Whitlam said:

"I need hardly say that you can be assured of a warm welcome being extended to you by my ministerial colleagues, the members of my government and myself."

CANBERRA. A.C.T.