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NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE OPENING
OF COLIN GARLAND'S EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 1 MAY 1975

1. NUMEROUS ARTISTS HAVE SOUGHT INSPIRATION IN BEAUTIFUL ISLAND SURROUNDINGS. ONE THINKS OF GAUGUIN IN TAHITI, OF DONALD FRIEND IN BALI. IN THE SAME COMPANY, I TRUST, WE SHALL THINK OF COLIN GARLAND IN JAMAICA.

2. HE IS NOT THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN ARTIST TO MAKE HIS NAME, AND ENHANCE HIS COUNTRY'S NAME, ABROAD. NOLAN AND BOYD ARE GOOD EXAMPLES. IT WAS WITH GUY MARTIN BOYD, A MEMBER OF THAT CELEBRATED FAMILY, THAT GARLAND BEGAN WORKING WITH CLAY AT THE AGE OF 14 IN SYDNEY. THIS EXPERIENCE, AND HIS FORMAL TRAINING AT THE EAST SYDNEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, LAID THE BASIS OF HIS CRAFTSMANSHIP.

3. WHEN HE WAS 22 HE CREATED THE TINTOOKIES - A CELEBRATED PUPPET FAMILY BELOVED BY THOUSANDS OF AUSTRALIANS. FIRE DESTROYED THE PUPPETS AND THEIR THEATRE FOUR YEARS AGO. THE TINTOOKIES TOURED WIDELY IN ASIA UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PETER SCRIVEN. THUS GARLAND'S WORK IS FAMILIAR IN TWO REGIONS - ASIA AND THE CARIBBEAN - REGIONS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO AUSTRALIA. NO ONE HAS DONE MORE TO DEVELOP THE CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND HER FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.

4. HE FIRST CAME TO JAMAICA IN 1962, STAYED THREE YEARS AND WENT TO LONDON, WHERE HE HELD EXHIBITIONS IN 1964 AND 1965. HE HELD AN EXHIBITION AT THE MACQUARIE GALLERY IN SYDNEY IN 1966. THE PULL OF JAMAICA WAS TOO STRONG, HOWEVER. GARLAND RETURNED AND HAS NOW LIVED HERE FOR NINE YEARS, PAINTING AND TEACHING AT THE JAMAICAN SCHOOL OF ART. HE WAS AWARDED A GRANT BY THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO TOUR GERMAN ART CENTRES, INCLUDING WEST BERLIN, AND IS GRATEFUL TO THE PRESENT GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA, HIS EXCELLENCY MR KURT SCHMIDT, FOR HELPING HIM SECURE THIS OPPORTUNITY.

5. COLIN GARLAND LIVES A ROUSSEAU-LIKE LIFE-STYLE IN A HOUSE HIGH IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS WHERE THE DISTANT SEA, FLOATING CLOUDS, BIRDS AND ANIMALS ARE HIS CONSTANT COMPANIONS. HE HAS IMMERSSED HIMSELF IN JAMAICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, SEVERAL OF HIS PAINTINGS BEING CONNECTED WITH THE MORANT BAY REBELLION OF 1865. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE LIVING HERE IN JAMAICA A CONSIDERABLE 20TH CENTURY ARTIST. I AM PROUD OF HIS AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE AND AM DELIGHTED TO DECLARE HIS EXHIBITION OPEN.
