

The Secretary



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

January 25, 1976

AUSTRALIA DAY

For 188 years, Australians - first the convicts, the pioneers, settlers and their descendants and now the migrants of the Post War years - have used their ability and their enterprise to create a nation with vast potentialities.

Today Australians celebrate the anniversary of first settlement amidst national and international challenges.

Australia's inflation and unemployment rates, although abating, still remain high.

The Government has taken actions in the economic field to lay the grounds for economic recovery and for an upturn in business expansion.

Processes for reviewing Government expenditure have been initiated. These will bring under control the extravagance of the past three years and make for a more effective and economical public sector.

Steps have also been taken to stimulate consumer spending to encourage economic recovery and business investment. The means we have chosen are designed to lay the foundations for real recovery.

I again pledge my Government to work for the well-being of all Australians.

We are one people and one nation.

Our over-riding commitment is to the value and dignity of each individual and to ensuring that they have the opportunity to develop their talents and their capacities.

The decisions of the Government will be taken with this as the prime objective.

I must also say that the solution of our present difficulties will not be easy.

It will take hard work and commitment. It will take dedication.

It will require a recognition that our most important interests are the ones we all share in common.

It will also require the recognition that our material resources are limited, that the more resources governments take the less people are able to choose for themselves the way in which they will live their own lives.

Australia was not built by its governments acting alone. Australia grew out of a sense of the idealism of its people and out of the combined efforts of people and government. The community must play its part in Australia's recovery and development.

Australia has unparalleled advantages. We have a highly skilled and educated population, vast natural resources and responsive political institutions.

These advantages hold out the promise of restored prosperity in a vigorous and growing nation.

We can have economic stability and progress, industrial harmony, ensure the security and well being of the disadvantaged, and the maximum freedom of individual citizens to make their own decisions about their own lives.

These things can only be achieved if, as a people, we recognise national interests and national objectives and work together.

We will fail if individuals or groups selfishly pursue their own ends at the expense of Australia.

The Government, will seek to work with all Australians and asks that individuals and organisations also recognise their obligation to the national well-being.