

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. J.D. Anthony

I deplore and strongly condemn the actions of demonstrators who engaged in outrageous harassment and violence in a protest directed at the Governor-General and other citizens in Melbourne last night.

It is a responsibility of Australians throughout the community to reject the techniques being employed on this and other occasions by an irresponsible minority of people fomenting trouble for their own ends.

It is about time that people understood that Sir John Kerr's action of last November was proper and inescapable.

The continuing attacks on the Governor-General are in reality attacks on the decision made by the Australian people in the December election, and on the democratic system which allowed them to make that decision.

The continued harassment and violence directed at Sir John and Lady Kerr, and other people, are un-Australian and will, I believe, be firmly rejected by the great majority of Australians.

I commend the police forces on the way they are carrying out very difficult and obviously dangerous work and assure them that they have the Government's full support.

Canberra,
24th June, 1976.