



270/12

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

EMBARGO: 5.00 p.m. Eastern
Summer Time,
Wednesday
24 November 1976

Program Approved for The Queen's Visit to Australia

The Queen has approved a program for her visit to Australia next March accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh.

They will have engagements in the A.C.T., all States and the Northern Territory in a visit which takes place in the year of the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty's accession to the throne.

The program will enable large numbers of people to see The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh informally during their visits to cities and attendances at sporting events, institutions and other venues.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will commence their visit to Australia in Canberra on 7 March and depart from Perth on 30 March, with a visit to Papua New Guinea from 23 Mo. 26 March.

The Australian Government has arranged with Qantas to charter a Boeing 707 aircraft to fly the Royal couple from New Zealand to Canberra, from Adelaide to Papua New Guinea and return to Australia, and from Perth to the United Kingdom.

Air Journeys by the Royal couple within Australia will be by RAAF aircraft. The RAAF will also provide backup aircraft for members of the official party and baggage.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Canberra 7-9 March, Queensland 9-11 March, New South Wales 11-14 March, Tasmania 14-16 March, Victoria 16-17 March, South Australia 20-23 March, Northern Territory 26 March, and Western

Australia 26-30 March.

They will visit all Australian capitals as well as Queanbeyan, Tamworth and Newcastle in New South Wales and Geraldton and Albany in Western Australia.

In New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, the Royal Couple will live on the Royal Yacht BRITANNIA except for one night when they will move to Government House, Adelaide, to allow the vessel sufficient cruising time to be in position for the start of their program in Western Australia.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will use BRITANNIA for transport and rest between official engagements in New South Wales, between Melbourne and Adelaide, and in Western Australia.

BRITANNIA will also be used by Her Majesty for entertaining.

In Canberra, The Queen will open the second session of the 30th Parliament on 8 March and afterwards review an Armed Forces parade on the lawns in front of Parliament House.

Other Canberra engagements include presiding at a meeting of the Privy Council, receiving heads of diplomatic missions, a reception at Parliament House, an investiture ceremony at Government House, and opening the Royal Australian Artillery Memorial at Mount Pleasant.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will travel from Government House via Fyshwick and Queanbeyan (NSW) to the RAAF Base Fairbairn for their departure from the A.C.T. for their departure from the A.C.T. for Queensland.

There will be occasions in each State when The Duke of Edinburgh will undertake separate engagements. In the main these will be connected with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.