



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

23 FEBRUARY 1977

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER TO PARLIAMENT ON THE QUEEN'S  
SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

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I WISH TO REPORT TO THIS HOUSE ON THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO AUSTRALIA OF HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA, AND OUR PLANS TO COMMEMORATE HER MAJESTY'S SILVER JUBILEE.

THE QUEEN WILL ARRIVE IN CANBERRA ON 7 MARCH, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, AND WILL SPEND THREE WEEKS IN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENT IS TO BE PROROGUED AND THE QUEEN WILL OPEN A NEW SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ON TUESDAY, 8 MARCH. SHE WILL THEN VISIT ALL STATES AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

MR SPEAKER, WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT THE QUEEN HAS CHOSEN TO VISIT AUSTRALIA AS ONE OF THE FIRST EVENTS OF HER JUBILEE YEAR. I KNOW THAT SHE AND PRINCE PHILIP WILL RECEIVE THE WARMEST WELCOME FROM ALL AUSTRALIANS. THERE EXISTS A SPECIAL AFFECTION AND DEEP RESPECT ON THE PART OF AUSTRALIANS FOR THE QUEEN, WHICH WILL BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY HER MAJESTY'S VISIT HERE NEXT MONTH.

I KNOW THAT GREAT NUMBERS OF AUSTRALIANS WILL WISH TO SEE THE QUEEN IN PERSON WHILE SHE IS HERE. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ARE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HER MAJESTY. THE GOVERNMENT URGES ALL STATES, PRIVATE INDUSTRY, OTHER EMPLOYERS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION SO THAT NO AUSTRALIA IS DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HER MAJESTY AT SOME POINT DURING HER TOUR.

IN ADDITION TO THE FORMAL OPENING OF PARLIAMENT, HER MAJESTY'S ~~ROLE~~ AS QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HER ARRIVAL ON 7 MARCH. AT A LUNCHEON AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, AS CHANCELLOR OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA, WILL PRESENT TO HER MAJESTY HER BADGE AS SOVEREIGN OF THE ORDER. THE BADGE HAS BEEN MADE BY A SKILLED AUSTRALIAN CRAFTSMAN, STUART DEVLIN WHO HAS DESIGNED ALL THE INSIGNIA FOR THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA.

THE DADGE BELT...  
GOLD AND SET WITH YELLOW DIAMONDS.

ON 9 MARCH, AN INVESTITURE WILL BE HELD AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT WHICH HER MAJESTY WILL PRESENT THE FIRST AWARDS IN THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA. SHE WILL ALSO CONFER A NUMBER OF KNIGHTHOODS AND WILL MAKE THE FIRST PRESENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATIONS, INCLUDING TWO POSTHUMOUS AWARDS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO MAKE A PERSONAL GIFT TO HER MAJESTY AS A SYMBOL OF THE RESPECT AND AFFECTION FELT FOR HER BY ALL AUSTRALIANS.

KNOWING HER LONG AND ACTIVE INTEREST IN THOROUGHBRED RACING - AN INTEREST WHICH IS SHARED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS - WE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IF WE PRESENTED HER MAJESTY WITH AN AUSTRALIAN THOROUGHBRED.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING CONCLUDED WITH THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BREEDER AND TRAINER, MR COLIN HAYES OF LINDSAY PARK STUD, FOR A NUMBER OF FOALS TO BE BRED TO THE EUROPEAN RACING CALENDAR FROM THE WELL KNOWN SIRE "WITHOUT FEAR". THE MARES CONCERNED INCLUDE "HIGH DESIRE", "PEARL OF ALBION", "PORTAL", "DEFIANT" AND "ROSE OF KEMPTON". THE BEST FOAL WILL BE SELECTED AND TRAINED AND THEN SENT TO ENGLAND FOR PRESENTATION TO THE QUEEN ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.

THIS IS A LONG TERM PROJECT. I AM SURE THAT ALL AUSTRALIANS WILL TAKE A KEEN INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOALS, AND IN THE SUCCESS OF THE SELECTED FOAL WHEN IT CARRIES THE QUEEN'S COLOURS IN EUROPE.

AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE WILL NOT END WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE QUEEN FROM AUSTRALIA ON 30 MARCH.

AS ANNOUNCED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ON 16 NOVEMBER LAST, THE QUEEN HAS APPROVED THE INSTITUTION OF A MEDAL TO BE KNOWN AS "THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE MEDAL" TO COMMEMORATE THE TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER ACCESSION TO THE THRONE.

THE MEDAL WILL BE STRUCK FOR ISSUE AS A PERSONAL AWARD FROM THE QUEEN TO PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WHO HAVE RENDERED SERVICE TO THE CROWN OR TO THE COMMUNITY.

THE COMMONWEALTH AND STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AWARDS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN LIST OF RECIPIENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE MEDALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN JUNE.

OTHER COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS WILL INCLUDE THE ISSUE OF A SPECIAL 50 CENT COIN AS ANNOUNCED BY THE TREASURER ON 1ST NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, AND TWO SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ISSUED BY THE POST OFFICE ON 2 FEBRUARY.

A MAJOR EVENT OF THE SILVER JUBILEE COMMEMORATION IN BRITAIN WILL BE THE SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL IN LONDON ON 7 JUNE. AUSTRALIA WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE SERVICE AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL FACILITATE THE ATTENDANCE OF THOSE AUSTRALIANS INVITED TO THE SERVICE.

EACH ARM OF AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE SERVICES WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM TO TAKE PART IN VARIOUS EVENTS THERE DURING THE YEAR.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THREE AUSTRALIAN SHIPS -- THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE, THE MISSILE DESTROYER, H.M.A.S. BRISBANE, AND AN OBERON CLASS SUBMARINE -- ATTEND THE NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD, PORTSMOUTH ON 28 JUNE. THE ARMY BAND WILL FLY TO LONDON IN JULY IN A RAAF C.130 HERCULES TO TAKE PART IN THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT AT EARLS COURT. THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE WILL SEND TWO AIRCRAFT -- AN F.111.C SUPPORTED BY A C.130 HERCULES -- TO THE RAF REVIEW ON 29 JULY AT FINNINGLEY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE.

THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA WOULD WISH TO MARK THE COMMEMORATION OF THE JUBILEE. CHURCH LEADERS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED INVITING THEM TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE HOLDING OF APPROPRIATE SERVICES.

I AM SURE THAT AUSTRALIANS OF ALL FAITHS WILL APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN DENOMINATIONAL OR ECUMENICAL SERVICES TO MARK THIS SPECIAL OCCASION.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL KNOW THAT AN APPEAL HAS BEEN LAUNCHED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM - THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL - TO COMMEMORATE HER MAJESTY'S JUBILEE. THE UNITED KINGDOM APPEAL WHICH IS LED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES, IS BY THE QUEEN'S WISH, DEDICATED TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONDUCT AN APPEAL IN AUSTRALIA WITH THE BENEFICIARIES TO BE THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF AUSTRALIANS.

I AM HONOURED TO ANNOUNCE THAT HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES HAS CONSENTED TO BE ROYAL PATRON OF THE AUSTRALIAN APPEAL. THEIR EXCELLENCIES, THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATES, WILL BE VICE PATRONS OF THE APPEAL.

THE AUSTRALIAN APPEAL - ALSO TO BE KNOWN AS THE "QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL" - WILL HAVE AS ITS TARGET THE RAISING OF \$5,000,000 OF WHICH THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE \$2,000,000.

I HAVE WRITTEN TO THE STATE PREMIERS INVITING THEIR CO-OPERATION AND SUGGESTING THAT THEY ASSOCIATE THEIR STATES WITH THE APPEAL.

THE PUBLIC WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO SUBSCRIBE. ALL DONATIONS TO THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL WILL BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

THE TOTAL PROCEEDS OF THE APPEAL WILL BE USED TO ESTABLISH A TRUST WHICH WILL BE A REGISTERED CHARITY.

THE TRUST WILL BE STYLED "THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SILVER JUBILEE TRUST" AND ITS INCOME WILL BE APPLIED, IN PART, TO FOSTER INVOLVEMENT IN AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY BY YOUNG PEOPLE. THE TRUST WILL ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY WHERE THEY WOULD NOT OTHERWISE EXIST, FOR TALENTED YOUNG AUSTRALIANS - TO FURTHER THEIR CAREERS BY ADDITIONAL STUDY AND TRAINING, IF NECESSARY OVERSEAS.

THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON ADVANCING LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE BROADEST SENSE AND DEVELOPING A SENSE OF PURPOSE AMONG INDIVIDUALS. YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP QUALITIES OF INITIATIVE AND LEADERSHIP AND TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY FURTHER THROUGH VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS. PRIMARILY, ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING IN THE SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE TRADE AND TECHNICAL FIELDS - FOR EXAMPLE, YOUNG APPRENTICES, CRAFTSMEN AND TRAINEE NURSES.

GRANTS WILL NOT NORMALLY BE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHERING UNIVERSITY OR POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION, AS THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY EXIST TO CATER FOR SUCH MATTERS.

THE TRUST WILL GIVE CONSIDERATION TO GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ANY PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE LIFE AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE TRUST WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY VIEWS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN DECIDING HOW TO CARRY OUT ITS OBJECTIVES.

THE APPEAL WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A NATIONAL COMMITTEE ASSISTED BY STATE COMMITTEES. A MOST DISTINGUISHED AUSTRALIAN, SIR IAN McLENNAN, K.B.E., KNOWN THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AS AN OUTSTANDING INDUSTRIALIST AND PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZEN, HAS AGREED TO ACT AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL APPEAL COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMEN OF STATE AND TERRITORIES COMMITTEES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING APPOINTED AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR APPOINTMENT WILL BE MADE SHORTLY.

I COMMEND THIS APPEAL TO ALL AUSTRALIANS AS ONE THAT IS A MOST WORTHY TRIBUTE TO OUR QUEEN AND A CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM TO HELP YOUNG AUSTRALIANS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE SILVER JUBILEE. TO PLAN, ARRANGE, AND CO-ORDINATE THESE EVENTS WE ARE ESTABLISHING A SILVER JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE ORGANISATION.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE SECURED THE AGREEMENT OF MR. HARRY M. MILLER TO SERVE IN AN HONORARY CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISATION. MR. MILLER IS ADMIRABLY SUITED TO THIS TASK BEING A LEADING THEATRICAL PRODUCER AND AN OUTSTANDING PERSONALITY IN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS AND CULTURAL LIFE. HE HAS GENEROUSLY PLACED HIS TALENTS AT THE SERVICE OF THIS AND PRECEDING GOVERNMENTS.

MR. MILLER WILL BE ASSISTED BY A SMALL TEAM OF SKILLED PERSONNEL TO HELP TO PLAN AND ARRANGE THE SELECTED ACTIVITIES.

MR. SPEAKER, IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S EARNEST DESIRE THAT HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND THE SILVER JUBILEE YEAR COMMEMORATION BE A HAPPY AND MEMORABLE ONE FOR THE QUEEN AND FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA WILL ENSURE, BY THE WARMTH OF THEIR WELCOME TO OUR QUEEN, THAT HER VISIT TO AUSTRALIA WILL BE A HIGHLIGHT OF HER SILVER JUBILEE.