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PRIME MINISTER

(This statement has also been released in London)

FOR PRESS

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AUSTRALIA'S GIFT PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN

To mark the occasion of the Queen's Silver Jubilee - the twenty-fifth anniversary of her becoming Head of the Commonwealth as well as of the beginning of her reign - the Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser, today (7 June 1977) presented a portrait of The Queen to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The portrait, painted by the Australian artist, Mr. Paul Fitzgerald, will be hung at Marlborough House, the headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Queen is wearing a sapphire and diamond tiara, a necklace, and a bracelet. The necklace was a wedding present to The Queen from her parents, the late King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The Queen wore the tiara for the first time in 1964. She is portrayed wearing a dress of chiffon, printed in pink, mauve, orange and yellow, with the soft cowl neckline and long floating sleeves.

The artist has depicted The Queen in front of an imaginary picture of the Earl Marshal's proclamation of her accession to the Throne, being read by the Garter King of Arms, from the balcony in Friary Court, St. James's Palace. This is one of four places from which the heralds traditionally proclaim the accession of a new sovereign.

This event took place on 8 February 1952, two days after the death of King George VI, and the day after The Queen's return from Kenya, where she had learned of the death of her father.

The depiction of this scene recalls that the picture has been painted to mark Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee.