

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, Minister for National Resources and Minister for Overseas Trade, the Rt Hon. J.D. Anthony

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The Acting Prime Minister said today that press reports about the Governor-General's overseas visit misinterpreted the position and were quite unfair to the Governor-General.

It was a regular practice for Governors-General to take mid-term leave overseas and for such visits to be at official expense. The Government had approved Sir John's visit in accordance with this practice.

There was, in this instance, the additional decision by the Government that Sir John should accept the invitation to be present at the Jubilee Celebrations in London.

In respect of functions at which the Prime Minister is the guest of honour, either in Australia or overseas, it would not be normal practice for the Governor-General to attend. No issue of precedence arises.

The cable referred to in some newspapers about invitations to the Governor-General was simply a reply to questions that had been asked by an overseas post and the reply given was in accordance with normal practice.

Canberra,  
20th June, 1977.