



EMBARGO: 4.00 p.m. SUNDAY

PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

8 OCTOBER 1978

PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL LIBRARY OPENING

The Prime Minister will visit Port Moresby on 29-30 October to present Australia's Independence Gift to Papua New Guinea - the National Library of Papua New Guinea. The Library will be officially received and opened by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr Michael Somare.

The Government of Papua New Guinea selected a National Library in 1975 as its Independence Gift from the Government and people of Australia. The Library was designed by the Commonwealth Department of Construction in collaboration with the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Australian National Library and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The steel framed building provides approximately 2,900 square metres of mostly air-conditioned accommodation. Local timber has been used extensively. Australian slate has been used in the Foyer and exhibition space. Key features of the design are two steeply pitched roof forms, modelled on the traditional Papua New Guinea architecture of the "Haus Tambaran".

The National Library has space for 180,000 volumes, over 10,000 films Audio and Video cassettes and other library material. The Library will also house the Papua New Guinea Collection and provide a repository for material published in Papua New Guinea. The building also contains a gallery where displays and exhibitions can be mounted.