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**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 1981

ROYAL WEDDING GIFT

(Statement by Acting Prime Minister, Mr Anthony)

Australia's wedding gift to Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer will be twenty hand-crafted silver platters.

The platters were designed by Mr Hendrik Forster of Melbourne and made by him from Australian silver.

They will be presented to Prince Charles and Lady Diana in a french-polished box hand-made from Australian blackwood.

The gift was commissioned by the Government after ideas were obtained from leading Australian craftsmen, including Mr Forster.

There will be an opportunity for the gift to be viewed by the public in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra before it is transported to London. The arrangements for exhibition of the gift are as follows:

- Melbourne - 9-10 July - in the window of the Qantas office at 283 Bourke Street (Between Swanston and Elizabeth Streets)
- Sydney - 13-15 July - in the window of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission office at 32 Martin Place
- Canberra - 16-17 July - in King's Hall, Parliament House

Details of the gift are overleaf.

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Twenty octagonal platters made from 925/000 sterling 1mm thick, outside diameter 255mm, bowl diameter 180mm and 16mm depth. The platters are hand-raised and planished.

The platters fit into a french-polished box that was hand-made by Mr Bryan P. Poynton of Airey's Inlet, Victoria, out of blackwood from the Otway Ranges. The silver hinges, corners, handles and lock were made by Mr Forster. The box is lined with padded blue silk velvet.

The following inscription is engraved on a silver plaque on the lid of the box:

PRESENTED TO  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES  
AND  
THE LADY DIANA SPENCER  
BY THE  
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT  
ON BEHALF OF  
THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR MARRIAGE  
29 JULY 1981

In addition, the following inscription is engraved on the back of each platter:

Australia  
29 July 1981

The engraving was carried out by Mr Bert Lamshed of Melbourne.