



PRIME MINISTER

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS TO CREW
BICENTENNIAL SCHOONER
THE LODGE - 12 FEBRUARY 1987

SIR JOHN LEAHY, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I AM DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE LODGE ON THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION TO MARK THE SELECTION OF THE TWELVE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS WHO WILL HELP CREW THE UNITED KINGDOM'S BICENTENNIAL GIFT SCHOONER "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" FROM BRITAIN TO AUSTRALIA.

SIR JOHN, MAY I BEGIN BY THANKING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA FOR THIS MAGNIFICENT AND GENEROUS GIFT.

THIS SPLENDID SAILING SHIP BEING BUILT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA IN TIME FOR OUR BICENTENARY IN JANUARY 1988. ON BOARD WILL BE THE TWELVE AUSTRALIANS WHOM I AM ABOUT TO INTRODUCE, AND TWELVE YOUNG BRITONS WHOSE NAMES ARE ALSO BEING ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THIS CREW OF TWENTY FOUR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE GUIDED BY FOUR OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY AND FOUR OFFICERS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY REPRESENTATIVES LEFT LAST MONTH FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM TO COMMENCE TRAINING WITH THEIR BRITISH COUNTERPARTS SO UNFORTUNATELY THEY CANNOT BE WITH US TODAY.

ON ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA, THE "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" WILL TAKE PART IN ANOTHER MAJOR EVENT OF 1988 - THE TALL SHIPS RACE FROM HOBART TO SYDNEY AND THE PARADE OF SAIL, INVOLVING THE TALL SHIPS, ON SYDNEY HARBOUR ON AUSTRALIA DAY 1988. IT WILL THEN BE OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO AUSTRALIA. THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY HAS AGREED TO TAKE ON THE TASK OF MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" AS A SAIL TRAINING VESSEL FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.

THE SCHOONER'S NAME, "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR", IS HIGHLY APPROPRIATE - A NAME WHICH RECALLS CAPTAIN COOK'S SHIP "THE ENDEAVOUR" BUT WHICH ALSO EMPHASISES THAT THIS VESSEL IS ESPECIALLY A GIFT TO BENEFIT OUR YOUTH.

IN A DEEPER SENSE, THE NAME IS A REMINDER OF OUR HISTORIC LINKS WITH BRITAIN, AND OF OUR COMMON HERITAGE. THE GIFT IS YET ANOTHER STRIKING PROOF OF THE ENDURING AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND AUSTRALIA.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ADVENTURE CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF YOUNG AUSTRALIA. AROUND 7000 YOUNG PEOPLE, BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 25, RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE TO THE QUESTION "ARE YOU ONE IN A MILLION?"

~~THAT MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE SHOWED THAT THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE STILL LIVES IN OUR YOUTH. BUT IT ALSO POSED A DAUNTING TASK OF SELECTING THE FINAL CREW. THAT TASK FELL TO THE SELECTION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL AUTHORITY. I WANT TO THANK COMMANDER PARKER AND HIS COMMITTEE FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT THEY DONATED TO THEIR TASK. I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES IN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY WHO UNDERTOOK THE PRELIMINARY SELECTION.~~

AROUND 200 OF THE ORIGINAL 7000 APPLICANTS WERE CHOSEN TO ATTEND TWO-DAY WORKSHOPS AT WHICH THEY WERE PUT THROUGH TESTS TO DETERMINE THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL PROWESS AND THEIR ABILITY TO GET ON WITH OTHERS UNDER TOUGH CONDITIONS.

TO THOSE THOUSANDS OF FINE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN SELECTED, I OFFER THIS CONSOLATION: THE SELECTION COMMITTEE TELLS ME THAT THE QUALITY OF THE APPLICATIONS WAS OUTSTANDING - A GREAT INDICATOR OF THE QUALITIES OF OUR YOUTH AND A SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

IT FOLLOWS THAT THE CREW THAT HAS BEEN CHOSEN IS OF A VERY HIGH CALIBRE INDEED.

IT NOW GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF THOSE TWELVE CREW MEMBERS AND THE FOUR RESERVES, WHO REPRESENT ALL AUSTRALIA'S STATES AND TERRITORIES:

[PRESENT A MEMENTO TO EACH CREW MEMBER AND RESERVES]

[MEMENTOS ARE NAMED AND WILL BE HANDED TO YOU]

MAY I OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL.

I WANT ALSO TO EXTEND MY THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE CORPORATE SPONSORS - COOPERS AND LYBRAND, W.D. SCOTT AND ANSETT - FOR THE ASSISTANCE THEY PROVIDED IN SELECTING THE CREW. THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE CORPORATE SECTOR JOINING WITH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. THE ABA HAS PREPARED SPONSORSHIP PLAQUES FOR THE COMPANIES IN RECOGNITION OF THIS ASSISTANCE AND I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT THEM TODAY.

[PRESENT PLAQUES TO REPRESENTATIVE OF:

COOPERS AND LYBRAND,
W.D. SCOTT AND
ANSETT]

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP I WOULD MENTION THAT PRESENT HERE TODAY ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES WHO WILL ASSIST WITH MEETING THE EXPENSES OF THE AUSTRALIAN CREW MEMBERS WHILE ON THEIR JOURNEY TO AND FROM BRITAIN.

FINALLY I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK DONE BY JIM KIRK AND HIS TEAM AT THE ABA. GIVEN THE TASK OF SELECTING THE YOUNG AUSTRALIAN CREW THEY CARRIED IT OUT WITH ENTHUSIASM, FLAIR AND EFFICIENCY.

IN OUR TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY AUSTRALIANS HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN MANY FIELDS OF ENDEAVOUR. IN PARTICULAR, AS A NATION, WE HAVE A GREAT TRADITION OF EXPLORATION AND ADVENTURE BOTH AT SEA AND ON LAND.

THE CREW OF THE "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" WILL CONTINUE IN THAT TRADITION.

ALL OF YOU WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ARDUOUS TASK OF SAILING THIS SCHOONER ARE ABOUT TO MAKE A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR BICENTENARY. WHAT'S MORE, YOU WILL BE CALLED UPON TO DEMONSTRATE SOME SPECIAL QUALITIES: ENDURANCE IN THE FACE OF HARDSHIP, COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DANGER, ENTHUSIASM IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGE, AND THAT CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE HALLMARK OF OUR PEOPLE.

YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN THIS MEMORABLE UNDERTAKING. ALL OF US WILL TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR ACHIEVEMENT, AS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE BICENTENARY AND THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY.
