MORE TROOPS TO TASMANIA

Statement by the Minister for the Army, the Hon. Malcolm Fraser, MP

Approximately 150 soldiers from mainland units will fly to Tasmania on Friday to assist relief operations in the Hobart area.

Announcing this today, the Minister for the Army, Mr Malcolm Fraser, who will visit Tasmania tomorrow, said that among the troops would be a company of 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, stationed at Woodside, South Australia.

The company would take over operation of the Brighton Camp which was still handling large numbers of families made homeless by the fires.

Other personnel would be drawn from units in Victoria and New South Wales to supplement the assistance being given by troops of Tasmania Command.

They would include members of the WRAAC and RAANC, butchers, cooks, nurses, hygiene staff, storemen, and Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineer technicians.

CMF units, which had been undergoing annual camp training when the emergency arose, had done a magnificent job and would be marching out of camp this weekend.

During the main danger period, a further 60 CMF members had volunteered for full-time duty and were still travelling up to 4000 miles a day in 17 vehicles, moving firefighters and clearing debris.

The Army would continue to give full assistance to civil authorities for as long as required.

Lists A & B

Further Information

Canberra - Maj. Allan S. Hinds
(65-4061) (49-6030)

15 February, 1967

Other States - PRO at Command HQ.