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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

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AUSTRALIA

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The Permanent Representative of Australia has the honour to advise the Secretary-General of the following measures and activities the Australian Government has undertaken in recognition of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

In a statement to the press on 22 March 1971, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable William McMahon announced that the year 1971 would be observed in Australia as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Australia, he said, subscribed fully to the purpose of this year, which was to achieve significant progress in eliminating all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination. The Prime Minister also said that the Australian Government abhorred racism. Racial discrimination was not acceptable to the Australian way of life.

The Government consulted with the United Nations Association of Australia on means to pursue the objectives of the Year. As a result the United Nations Association assisted in the establishment of the Australian Committee to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (CAARD) comprising a considerable number of non-governmental organizations.

The Australian Government made a grant of \$12,000 to this Committee to assist it with its programme. This grant has assisted the Committee in carrying out educational activities, which have included the distribution of school kits and wall posters on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, distribution of a series of bulletins featuring major statements on aspects of racial discrimination, and financial assistance to State Committees to enable them to carry out their programmes, particularly those concerned with the publication and reprinting of material designed to foster academic and public information on the Year's theme. Seminars, public meetings and lectures organized by the State Committees have also contributed to awareness of the Year, its importance, and of national and international developments relating to it. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will refer to the International Year in a statement which he will issue on the occasion of Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Australia is a party to some of the conventions having a bearing upon the elimination of racial discrimination, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 7 September 1956, and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education. Australia is a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and active consideration is being given by the Commonwealth and State Governments to the removal of the few remaining elements of legislation which may not be compatible with the provisions of the Convention.
