

Melbourne will be ready for the Games of the XVth Olympiad **says the Prime Minister of Australia**

An assurance that next year's Olympic Games in Melbourne would be presented in the highest traditions of the past was given by the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Robert G. Menzies, on November 22d last.

Mr. Menzies is President of the 1956 Olympic Games. He said :

"A year from today, the Duke of Edinburgh will open the Olympic Games, in Melbourne - the 11th city of modern times to present the world's greatest sporting festival.

"On behalf of the Australian people, I send cordial greetings to the sportsmen of every land. We eagerly look forward to having you with us to share in the celebration of the Olympiad.

"At the end of your journey you will find yourself among friendly hospitable people who for over half a century have been among the most enthusiastic supporters of the Olympic movement.

"The Olympic standard will be raised in a new continent and a new city. The International Olympic Committee showed vision in selecting Melbourne as the site of the next Games.

"All previous Olympiads have been cele-

brated in Europe or the United States of America. But the Olympic movement has now become a great world force embracing 87 nations. It belongs as much to this part of the world as to any other. Staging the Games in this region will demonstrate the truly international character of the Olympiads and will win the movement millions of new followers throughout the nations of the Western Pacific.

"For Australians especially, this will be the opportunity of a lifetime to see the 2,700 years old Olympic festival. Few of us will ever have the chance again. The Olympic Games will certainly not be seen here again in the present century. At least 25 other cities are waiting for their turn.

"Melbourne's preparations are backed by the whole Australian nation. Our pledge to the International Olympic Committee will be fully honoured. No one need have any fears about how Melbourne will present the Games. With a year to go, preparations are well on the way to completion.

"The Olympic world can rest assured that Melbourne will be ready and that the Games will be presented in accordance with the high standards set by past host cities."