

# NAVY DROPS PLAN TO BUILD STORES

**CANBERRA, Tues.**—The Navy has dropped plans to build a large store complex at Woolloomooloo in Sydney.

**INSTEAD**, the Federal Government has decided to build an office block complex on the site.

The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Nixon) said the \$8 million project was part of large scheme to provide more office accommodation in Sydney and Melbourne.

The program would cost \$15 million.

Mr. Nixon said the office complex at Woolloomooloo was of "major" proportions.

Two office buildings would form the first stage of the project.

The buildings would be on a five and a half acre site, bounded by Forbes, Pring, Dowling and Cathedral Streets.

Mr. Nixon said the Navy had originally purchased the site.

The Navy had wanted to develop naval stores in the area.

The Navy had agreed not to go ahead with this plan.

It had done this because of current plans to redevelop the Woolloomooloo area.

The new proposals for the site were consistent with the zoning proposals for Woolloomooloo re-development.

## Early start

The zone plans had been prepared by the N.S.W. State Planning Authority.

He said an early start would be made on a master plan for the Woolloomooloo site.

Early planning would also begin on construction of the first stage of two office blocks.

Each block would provide 150,000 square feet of office space.

The cost would be \$8 million.

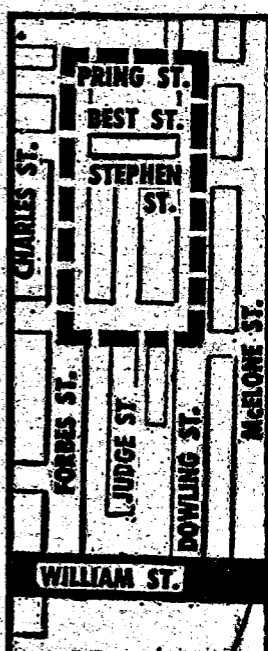
Mr. Nixon also announced that the Commonwealth Centre in Phillip Street, Sydney, would be extended.

Another 80,000 square feet would be added.

The cost of this development would be \$2.8 million.

Mr. Nixon said 150,000 square feet of office space would be built in Melbourne at a cost of about \$4 million.

The new projects in Sydney and Melbourne would help meet the Federal Government's urgent need for office space.



It would also help consolidate the activities of some departments.

But it would still be necessary to rent privately owned space.

The N.S.W. Minister for Local Government (Mr. Morton) said in Sydney last night he would like to study closely details of the Commonwealth's development proposals.

He said: "I am suspicious of any Commonwealth development in the city area."

## Proposals

The SPA, at the request of the former City Commissioner, drew up proposals for the development of the Woolloomooloo area.

"As far as I know the City Council has not yet accepted these proposals as such," Mr. Morton said.

Mr. Morton said the existing Commonwealth Centre in Phillip Street was deplorable compared to the nearby State Office Block.

He said the Commonwealth Centre was an ugly building intruding into what could have been a delightful city square.

Any re-development of this site should be designed to eliminate some of the unfavorable features of the building.