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Title:

Statement: Ocean Park

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date... May 27, 1976.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

Ocean Park, the \$US 80 million oceanarium being developed in Hong Kong, officially received its first wildlife donation from any government today when Mr. Don Dunstan, Premier of South Australia, unveiled a plaque to mark the presentation of three Australian sea-lions indigenous to the State of South Australia.

The animals, which now weigh 115 pounds each, were originally exhibited at Expo '75 in Motobu, Okinawa. They were transferred to Ocean Park in January.

Speaking at the presentation Mr. Dunstan said that it was the unique facilities Ocean Park will be providing which made the gift of the sea-lions feasible.

"The Government of South Australia is very conscious of the need to understand more about its native animals and other than undertaking expensive and costly field studies, no other establishment in existence or under development has the capability of providing the facilities for observation and study that will be found at Ocean Park.

"What the staff at Ocean Park learns will undoubtedly be of value to our own naturalists and help protect the entire species", said Mr. Dunstan.

The three sea-lions will be among the first animals introduced into the Park's Wave Tank exhibition, highlighted by a 250,000 gallon tank over 300 feet long and mechanisms which will produce waves up to three feet high. The exhibition will be the only one of its type in the world. It will simulate the natural habitat of a wide variety of coastal birds and animals, providing them with space and conditions in which they can live and breed under observation but without the control and training imposed on animals normally used for performances.



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