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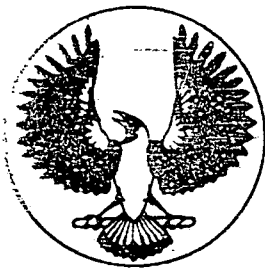
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Title:

Statement: Underwater historical research, Kangaroo Island

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date... December 10, 1976

Embargo.....

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

A major underwater historical research expedition will take place for Kangaroo Island next February, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, announced today.

The expedition to examine and preserve the wreck of a 100 year old clipper ship, the Loch Vennachar, is being conducted by the Society for Underwater Historical Research.

The ship which was built in Glasgow in 1875 was lost on a voyage to Adelaide in September 1905 and was only found in February this year.

The Premier said the expedition was a very significant attempt to help preserve a unique piece of South Australia's history.

"The wreck of the Loch Vennachar is of great importance to the heritage of South Australia and the South Australian Government has been pleased to be able to give generous assistance to the Loch Vennachar expedition"

Mr. Dunstan said the Government had given the expedition transport concessions so that equipment being transported to Kangaroo Island for the expedition would go on the Motor Vessel Troubridge at half the normal rate.

As well, departments employing members of the expedition had been given considerable assistance.

The Government has approved the area surrounding the wreck to be declared a historic reserve under the provisions of the Aboriginal and Historic Relics Preservation Act. As well, ten members of the police aqualung squad in two teams of five will be made available for the expedition.

"The Loch Vennachar expedition is an ambitious attempt to firstly survey the wreck site and map the area and then to get a photographic record of the site before recovering significant relics for permanent protection and preservation.

"It has taken a great deal of organising by the Society for Underwater Historical Research and I am sure it will be a very successful expedition both for the Society and for the people of South Australia. I am very pleased that the State Government has been able to assist so greatly.