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PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 39

19 January 1973

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY THEIR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES CROWN PRINCE AKIHITO AND CROWN PRINCESS MICHIKO OF JAPAN

The Prime Minister confirmed today that Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko of Japan have accepted an invitation to visit Australia during May 1973 as guests of the Australian Government.

Mr. Whitlam said that he was looking forward to their visit which he feels will be an enjoyable experience for them.

Their Imperial Highnesses are expected to begin their visit in Canberra in the second week of May and to spend from ten to twelve days visiting several of the Australian States as well as the National Capital.

Mr. Whitlam said that the State authorities in those States included in the itinerary will be invited to propose a program of engagements for submission to Their Imperial Highnesses. When an approved program for their Australian visit has been decided, the details will be announced.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.