



PRIME MINISTER

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WIFE OF PRIME MINISTER TO LAUNCH NEW ANL SHIP

(Statement by the Australian Minister for Transport, the Honourable C.K. Jones, M.P.)

The Australian Minister for Transport, Mr C. K. Jones, said today that Mrs Margaret Whitlam, the wife of the Prime Minister, would launch the Australian National Line's new vessel, Australian Emblem, in Japan on 9 August.

The launching of the 23,000 tonne vehicle/deck container vessel would take place at the Kawasaki Heavy Industries Shipyard in Kobe, and was scheduled to enter the Australian/Japan trade in December this year.

Mr Jones said that the new ship would join the Eastern Searoad Service, an integrated container service, comprising the Australian National Line, Flinders Shipping Company Limited, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd, 'K' Line) and a consortia of three other Japanese Lines, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (N.Y.K.) Mitsui-O.S.K. Lines Limited (M.O.L.) and Shinnihon Steamship Co. Limited (Y.S. Line).

This large, fast vessel was the first of the E.S.S. second generation and had been designed to meet the requirements of the trade between the two countries particularly in respect of refrigerated cargo.

"The vessel's design is a further development of the concepts well known to the Australian National Line. It embodies the vehicle deck and cellular container concepts. This ensures fast handling and turnabout times. This feature has particularly attracted shippers to the Eastern Searoad Service," Mr Jones said.

The vessel had an overall length of 223 metres, a beam of 30 metres and a draft of 10.36 metres. It also had a capacity of 1410 x 5.9m containers.

Another vessel of the same type on order for the Flinders Shipping Company Limited, an Australian Flag Company, was scheduled to join the E.S.S. Service in mid-1975. The cost of both vessels was \$20M each.