



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

13 JUNE 1978

STATEMENT BY ACTING PRIME MINISTER

Royal Visits

Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Mrs Angus Ogilvy and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy will visit Australia in September 1978, and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester are to visit in February 1979.

The announcement of their acceptances of invitations conveyed to them by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Commonwealth Government is being made in London today.

Princess Alexandra and Mr Ogilvy will be in Melbourne on Saturday 23 September and will open the Annual Show of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

The Duke of Gloucester is Grand Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Actual dates for the visits and the States to be included in the itineraries are yet to be decided. These details will be announced as soon as practicable.

Princess Alexandra's first visit to Australia occurred in August/September 1957 for Queensland's centenary of responsible government. Her itinerary began in Canberra and after spending three weeks in Queensland was followed by shorter visits to New South Wales - including the Snowy Mountains Scheme - and Victoria.

In February/March 1967 Princess Alexandra and Mr Ogilvy visited Australia privately. In Canberra they stayed at Westminster House as guests of Sir Charles Johnston, British High Commissioner and Lady Johnston, and in Sydney stayed at Kirribilli House as guests of the Commonwealth Government.

The Duke of Gloucester lived in Australia from 1945 to 1947, when his father the late Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, served a term as Governor-General of Australia.

In 1962/63 as Prince Richard of Gloucester he spent several months privately in Australia.