



FILE

PRIME MINISTERFOR PRESS8 DECEMBER 1978VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF GABON

The Prime Minister announced today that President Omar Bongo of Gabon would make a private visit to Australia on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 December.

He will be accompanied by Madame Bongo and senior Ministers and officials.

The President will visit Sydney and Canberra.

Mr Fraser said that during the course of the visit President Bongo would undertake some official engagements.

President Bongo will pay courtesy calls on the Governor-General and the Prime Minister in Canberra on December 13.

He will also attend a luncheon to be given by the Prime Minister at Parliament House.

Mr Fraser said that he welcomed the opportunity to meet President Bongo, who was Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity last year. Gabon is currently a member of the U.N. Security Council.

Gabon is an important producer of uranium, manganese, timber and oil. It is a member of OPEC.

President Bongo, who has been Head of State since 1967, will be the first leader of a French-speaking country in the African continent to visit Australia.

Three of the President's daughters made a private visit to Australia in 1976.