



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 1980

VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

The Prime Minister announced today that he will be having discussions in Wellington on 21 March 1980 with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Muldoon.

He will be accompanied by the Minister for Special Trade Representations, Senator Scott.

The discussions will focus on the possible scope for moving towards a closer economic and trading relationship between Australia and New Zealand.

The Prime Minister recalled that he had discussed this subject with Mr Muldoon in a preliminary way at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka last August.

It had been agreed then that officials should examine the scope for closer co-operation and that further discussions should be held early in 1980 to review progress made in the work of officials.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the purpose of the discussions with Mr Muldoon will not be to take decisions on new arrangements between Australia and New Zealand. Rather, the purpose will be to assess the outcome of work done so far by officials and to give direction to further work.