



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

12 FEBRUARY, 1985

Federal Cabinet today reaffirmed Australian Government policy on the basic issues of the Australia/U.S. Alliance, ANZUS Treaty and on disarmament and deterrence.

Cabinet took these decisions today after it received and endorsed a report on my recent overseas visit.

As a result of the discussions, and bearing in mind our close relations with both the U.S. and New Zealand, Cabinet will shortly consider a paper on the practical measures with regard to the U.S. and New Zealand for giving effect to the ANZUS Alliance following the recent New Zealand action to ban U.S. ship visits, and another paper elaborating on the relation between and the implementation of the Government's policies on disarmament and support for deterrence.

The first paper will be prepared by the Foreign Minister, the Hon. Bill Hayden, M.P. and the Minister for Defence, the Hon. Kim Beazley, M.P. and the second paper will be prepared by Mr Hayden.

The Cabinet discussion was lengthy, amicable and conducted in an atmosphere of genuine desire to ensure continuing unity and cohesion both at the Government and Party level over these complex and sensitive issues.

There was also general agreement that both the Australia/U.S. Alliance and the need to do all in our power to ensure the maximum possible progress on disarmament were essential to Australian foreign policy.

All Ministers addressed the issue without rancour and with a desire to search for the best method of both implementation and understanding of these policies.

An important theme of the discussion was the need to ensure that the decision making processes of the Government were directed most effectively to these ends.