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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

28 JUNE 1988

The Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Noboru Takeshita, will visit Australia 1-5 July at the invitation of the Australian Government.

Mr Takeshita will be accompanied by his wife, several Parliamentarians and a party including senior Government officials.

This will be Prime Minister Takeshita's first visit to Australia, although I have met him in Japan on three previous occasions, most recently in December last year, soon after his appointment as Prime Minister. I am delighted that Mr Takeshita is visiting Australia in our Bicentennial year and will have the opportunity to visit Expo 88 in Brisbane, see something of Sydney and have discussions with me in Canberra.

We welcome Mr Takeshita as the leader of Australia's major trading partner and of a nation whose regional and global importance continues to expand.

Mr Takeshita will also hold discussions with Ministers who have portfolio interests in Australia-Japan relations and will meet the Governor-General and the Premiers of Queensland and New South Wales.

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