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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

28 JUNE 1988

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, will be visiting Australia as a guest of the Government for the Bicentenary from 1 to 6 August. Mrs Thatcher will be having official discussions in Canberra, and visiting Perth, Melbourne and Sydney and Expo 88 for the British National Day.

Mrs Thatcher's visit, in this Bicentennial year, will serve to underline the warmth and friendliness of the relations between Britain and Australia and to remind us of the enormous contribution to our country made by people from Britain since the beginning of European settlement.

The British gave us, most importantly, our language and the basis for the institutions of our free society: parliamentary democracy, the law, and our system of liberal education. Australian traditions and values strongly reflect our British origins.

The British influence has helped make Australia a country which has attracted other peoples from all over the world, and people from Britain continue to make a major contribution as valued immigrants.

I am delighted that the British Prime Minister is able to visit in the year we commemorate two hundred years of Australian achievement.