



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

6 DECEMBER 1991

I am pleased that President George Vassiliou of Cyprus has accepted my invitation to visit Australia and will be here from 10-18 December.

I will be meeting President Vassiliou for discussions and hosting a Parliamentary lunch in his honour on 11 December. He will also meet with other Cabinet Ministers. The Governor-General will receive President Vassiliou later that day.

The visit provides an opportunity to discuss the progress of negotiations on Cyprus. Australia supports a peaceful, just and long-lasting solution, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions on this matter. We believe the best opportunity for achieving such a result is negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.

I also wish to discuss developments in the Middle East and Europe with the President, given Cyprus's unique geographical position in relation to both those regions.

President Vassiliou will hold talks with State Governments in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Relations between our two countries have always been close, and Australia is home to many people of Cypriot origin.

The visit will focus on the Cypriot community here in Australia and business links between our two countries. President Vassiliou will visit Cypriot communities in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, and address meetings of the Melbourne chapter of Australian Business in Europe (ABIE) and the Council for Europe in Sydney during his visit.

An engagement at the National Press Club is scheduled for Friday 13 December.

President Vassiliou will be accompanied by Foreign Minister George Iacovou.