

P.M.10/1959

MINISTER FOR TRADE FOR WASHINGTON TALKS

Statement by the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) announced today that the Minister for Trade (Mr. McEwen) would leave for the United States on Thursday to discuss a number of trade matters in Washington.

Mr. Menzies said the visit would be short and Mr. McEwen would return to Australia before he himself left for abroad.

Mr. Menzies said that Mr. McEwen's talks would cover a range of subjects which could be best dealt with on a Ministerial level at "on the spot" discussions. Mr. McEwen had a full understanding of Australia's and the United States' trade problems, and a short personal visit was more convenient at this time, in view of the fact that Mr. McEwen would not be able to be out of Australia during his (Mr. Menzies) absence overseas.

Mr. Menzies said that Mr. McEwen would be away less than three weeks and during that time the Minister for Defence (Mr. Townley) would be Acting Minister for Trade.

CANBERRA,
28th March, 1959.