



195

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

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ANZUS COUNCIL TO MEET IN AUSTRALIA

Statement by the Minister for External Affairs.

The Minister for External Affairs, Sir Garfield Barwick, announced today that on the invitation of Australia a meeting of the ANZUS Council would take place in Canberra on May 7 and 8 this year.

New Zealand would be represented by the Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, Mr. K. J. Holyoake. The United States representative would be Mr. Dean Rusk, Secretary of State.

The ANZUS Treaty entered into force in 1952.

Sir Garfield said that Australia attached very much importance to the Treaty as a pact of mutual security between the United States, New Zealand and Australia.

He noted that the Council of Foreign Ministers established under the Treaty provided a forum for the exchange of views on matters of common interest affecting security in the Pacific area in which Australia, New Zealand and the United States were vitally concerned.

The forthcoming meeting, which would be the eleventh, was of particular interest in that it would be the first to take place in Australia. It was also the first since Mr. Kennedy became President of the United States.

Sir Garfield added that the Government welcomed the visit of Mr. Holyoake and also that of Mr. Rusk who had not previously visited Australia.

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