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MINISTER FOR SUPPLY TO GO OVERSEAS

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt.Hon. Sir Robert
Menzies

The Minister for Supply, the Hon. Allen Fairhall, is to visit the U.K. and the U.S.A. on Departmental business during the Parliamentary recess.

The Prime Minister said today that following a London meeting of the Joint Project Policy Committee dealing with the future programme of weapons trials at Woomera, the British Government had invited Mr. Fairhall to look at United Kingdom developments in guided weapons and defence production generally.

In France, Mr. Fairhall will have discussions on the Mirage production programme and support facilities with the French aircraft company under whose licence Mirage is being produced. He will also accept the French Government's invitation to visit the Paris Air and Space Exhibition.

The Minister's visit to the United States is at the invitation of James E. Webb, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, for a review of current and planned NASA activities in Australia, which are conducted in Australia by, or under the control of the Department of Supply.

Mr. Fairhall will seize the opportunity presented by his visit to make calls at New Delhi and Karachi to discuss with the Governments of India and Pakistan, matters of mutual interest in Supply, and might include discussion of the possibility of mutual exchanges of visits by technical officers in Defence Production.

Mr. Fairhall will leave Australia on May 26th. He will be accompanied by the Secretary of the Supply Department, Mr. J.L. Knott.

CANBERRA,

12th May, 1963.