

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARINA,

DUCHESS OF KENT.

The Prime Minister announced in Canberra tonight that the following statement had been issued from Kensington Palace -

Quote - Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, has been invited by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to visit Australia in the autumn, and has accepted this invitation with great pleasure.

The Princess will arrive in Australia towards the end of September, undertake a short visit to Canberra, and later stay for a few days in Sydney, where she will visit the British Exhibition. - Unquote.

The Prime Minister said that all Australians would warmly welcome the news of the proposed visit by Princess Marina. Princess Marina has had a place in the affections of the Australian people for many years. Australia had looked forward to welcoming her in 1938 as the wife of our Governor-General, but the war and the tragic death of the late Duke of Kent on active service intervened. The Prime Minister said that he, personally, knew that Australia and Australian affairs have been one of Her Royal Highness' interests for many years and, with the memorable visit to Australia in 1959 of her daughter, Princess Alexandra, this interest greatly increased. Princess Marina would be assured of a very warm and sincere welcome.



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The Prime Minister said he was pleased that Princess Marina would be able to visit the British Exhibition in Sydney while she was in Australia.

This will be a comparatively short visit and Princess Marina will be unable to visit States other than New South Wales. As is well known, the Prime Minister added, we have been aiming at short and limited Royal visits so that they may be more frequent.

Consultations will take place to suggest an appropriate itinerary for Princess Marina's visit.

CANBERRA.

25th February, 1964.