

FOR PRESS:

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VISIT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

The Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Government of Israel, Mr. Abba Eban, will pay an official visit to Australia next month.

Mr. Eban will be accompanied by his wife and by Mr. David Rivlin, Assistant Director of the British Commonwealth Division of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Emanuel Shimoni, Director of the Bureau of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Minister and his party arrive in Sydney on Monday, 6th March, and travel on to Canberra the same morning. Later in the day he will call on the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Hasluck, who will give him a dinner party that evening.

On Tuesday, 7th March, the Foreign Minister will have discussions with the Minister for External Affairs and senior officials of the Department of External Affairs. At noon he will give a press conference at the Hotel Canberra, following which the Government will hold a luncheon in his honour. During the afternoon, he will call on the Prime Minister and will also meet the Leader of the Opposition.

The Ambassador of Israel, His Excellency Mr. David Teshler, will give a reception in the early evening of Tuesday, 7th March, following which the visitors will be entertained at a dinner given by Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Casey at Government House.

Mr. Eban and party will leave Australia on Wednesday, 8th March for a short stay in New Zealand. They will return to Australia on Friday 10th and will spend two days privately with members of the Jewish community before leaving again for overseas on Sunday, 12th.

The Australian Government looks forward to the visit by Mr. and Mrs. Eban which is the first official Ministerial visit to Australia from Israel. Following the visit to Israel by the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Hasluck in April, 1966, Mr. Eban's tour will strengthen still further the many links between the two countries.

CANBERRA,
16th February, 1967.