

FOR PRESS:

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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO U.S. AND CANADA

The Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton, will leave Australia on the night of Saturday 29 March for his talks with President Nixon in Washington and Mr Trudeau in Ottawa.

The discussions in Washington will occupy Tuesday (1st) and Wednesday (2nd April), commencing a day later than originally scheduled because of unavoidable changes in the President's programme.

In addition to his talks with the President, Mr Gorton will call on the Vice-President and senior members of the Administration. He will attend a dinner in his honour to be given by the President at the White House on Tuesday evening.

Late Wednesday afternoon he will fly to Ottawa, ready for the talks with Mr Trudeau and his Cabinet on Thursday (3rd). On Wednesday night he will be guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Mr Trudeau, while on Thursday he will attend a special dinner given by His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada. He will leave Ottawa on Friday the 4th (Good Friday).

Mrs Gorton will be accompanying the Prime Minister. The delegation will include the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department, Mr C. L. Hewitt, the Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, Sir James Plimsoll, and personal staff.

The Prime Minister and his party will be travelling by commercial aircraft to San Francisco, and by Presidential aircraft from San Francisco to Washington. The Prime Minister of Canada is arranging air transport for Mr Gorton's visit to Ottawa.

CANBERRA, 16 March 1969