

VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The Governor-General of New Zealand, Sir Arthur Porritt, and Lady Porritt will make a State Visit to Australia from October 27 to November 7.

It will be the first official visit to Australia by the vice-regal couple and is being made at the invitation of the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Paul Hasluck.

Sir Paul and Lady Hasluck visited New Zealand in February and the exchange of visits, the first of its kind, is seen as a useful part of a policy of maintaining close relationships between New Zealand and Australia.

During the visit Sir Arthur and Lady Porritt will visit Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Bathurst and the Blue Mountains.

In Canberra their programme includes a Government reception at Parliament House, an inspection of 'Merryville' and 'Hillview' properties and a visit to the Australian War Memorial.

They will attend the Melbourne Cup meeting on November 2 and during their time in New South Wales will tour the Blue Mountains and Jenolan Caves.

Sir Arthur, a Rhodes scholar and international sportsman, is the first native-born representative of the Crown in New Zealand.

An outstanding athlete, he was the first member of the New Zealand team to win an Olympic Medal in a track and field event, gaining a bronze medal in the 100 metres at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris.

He has been Serjeant-General to the Queen since 1952 and earlier was a surgeon to King George VI from 1946 to 1952.

Sir Arthur and Lady Porritt will undertake the following itinerary while in Australia:-

Wednesday, October 27 a.m.	- Wellington/Sydney/Canberra
Saturday, October 30 a.m.	- Canberra/Hobart
Monday, November 1 a.m.	- Hobart/Melbourne
Thursday, November 4 a.m.	- Melbourne/Blue Mountains
Friday, November 5 a.m.	- Blue Mountains/Sydney
Sunday, November 7 a.m.	- Leave Sydney

CANBERRA
20 October, 1971.

BACKGROUND: The Commonwealth Press Liaison Officer for the visit is Mr. G. Dixon of the Canberra Office of the Australian News and Information Bureau. He may be contacted at telephone 612123