



PRIME MINISTER

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SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. William
McMahon, CH, MP

Australia will continue its participation in the South Pacific Forum.

Arrangements are now in hand for a meeting of the Forum in Canberra on February 23 to 25 which is expected to be attended by the President of Nauru, the Prime Ministers of Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa, the Premier of the Cook Islands and delegations from Australia and New Zealand.

The meeting's essential purpose is to provide an informal, private and intimate opportunity for island leaders and Australia and New Zealand together to compare notes on problems of concern to them.

It is envisaged that the discussions will cover such matters as trading arrangements, economic co-operation, transport and communications and the impact of the Forum upon the separate but related activities of the South Pacific Commission.

CANBERRA,
15 February, 1972.