



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT No. 66

27 March, 1973

### THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO LONDON

The Prime Minister announced today details of a forthcoming visit to London.

He said that it had been a matter of priority in his mind that he should make a visit to London as soon as reasonably possible. Its purposes would be, as Prime Minister, to meet the Prime Minister of Britain, Mr Heath, and also very importantly, as Prime Minister, to call on the Queen.

For both purposes he felt that he should make the visit to London before August - that is before the Prime Minister's Conference in Ottawa, especially as Her Majesty also will be present in Ottawa at that time.

The Parliamentary break at Easter presented a suitable opportunity.

The Prime Minister said he had been in touch with the Australian High Commissioner in London, who was able to tell him that a visit at that time would be suitable and in addition Her Majesty would wish Mrs. Whitlam and him to stay with her at Windsor on the night of Friday, 20th.

It happens that Saturday, 21st, is the Queen's birthday.

The Prime Minister is already committed to be in Apia for the South Pacific Forum just prior to Easter. He will need to leave Apia on Wednesday, 18 April, which is the day before the conference ends. This has been explained to the Prime Minister of Western Samoa and other Heads of Government and Senator Willesee will take over from the Prime Minister on the final day.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.