



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 120

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AUSTRALIA/JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Prime Minister has accepted an invitation from the Japanese Government to make an official visit to Japan from 26 to 31 October this year.

This will be only the third time that an Australian Prime Minister has visited Japan. Previous visits were made by Sir Robert Menzies in 1957 and Mr. Gorton in 1970.

Mr. Whitlam's visit will underline the importance which the Australian Government attaches to Australia's relations with Japan. He will be received by the Emperor and have talks with the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Tanaka, and the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Ohira.

Mr. Whitlam will lead the Australian delegation to the second meeting of the Australia/Japan Ministerial Committee which will take place on 29-30 October.

The Minister for Overseas Trade and Secondary Industry, Dr. Cairns, the Treasurer, Mr. Crean, the Minister for Primary Industry, Senator Wriedt, and the Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr. Connor, will join the Prime Minister as members of the Australian delegation to the meeting.

Mr. Whitlam said this would be the most important single delegation of ministers ever sent overseas by Australia. Discussion at the meeting will concentrate on trade, economic and resources questions of interest to both countries.

Mr. Whitlam will be accompanied by his wife and senior officials.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.