MABARGO: Not for publication or broadcast lefore 4 pm, Saturday, November 3, 1973

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1973

## VISIT BY THE SHAH OF IRAN

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, The Honourable L.H. Barnard, MP)

His Imperial Majesty, the Shahanshah of Iran, has accepted an invitation by His Excellency the Governor-General, to pay a State visit to Australia as a guest of the Government during 1974. He will be accompanied by Her Imperial Majesty, the Shahbanou of Iran.

Announcing this today the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Barnard, said that he looked forward to the visit and welcomed the opportunity it would provide to consolidate and to develop further Australia's already friendly relations with Iran.

Mr. Barnard said that this would be the first visit to Australia by the reigning Monarch of Iran, who acceded to the throne in 1941 and whose progressive policies and Government have contributed so much to the attainment by Iran of the high regard in which it is held today.

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