



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 156

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VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY THE FEDERAL GERMAN CHANCELLOR

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that the Federal German Chancellor, Herr Willy Brandt, had accepted his invitation to visit Australia. A date for the visit would be decided next year.

Mr Whitlam said that a visit to Australia by Herr Brandt would give the greatest pleasure to the Australian Government and people. It would bring particular satisfaction to the large and important German-born community in Australia and to the many other Australians of German descent whose families have contributed greatly to Australia's development. All Australians, Mr Whitlam said, would share in the warmth of the welcome to the Federal Chancellor.

Mr Whitlam said that the visit by Herr Brandt would be the first visit to Australia by a leading West European statesman since the visit of President Saragat of Italy in September 1967.

Mr Whitlam said Herr Brandt's visit would be an opportunity to show that Europe, of which West Germany was a most important member, has a positive and constructive role to play in the Asian and Pacific region. Europe would find that its active interest in Asia and the Pacific would be reciprocated by the countries of the area and would be a considerable contribution towards the peace and development of the region.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.