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Embargo - 8.00 p.m. Saturday 16 February...0900 16 February London time

Press Statement No. 184

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam.

(Issued in connection with the statement to be made at 8.00 p.m. tonight by Buckingham Palace - see copy attached.)

The Queen to Return to Australia

I am pleased that it will be possible for The Queen to return to Australia and visit Adelaide, Perth and Darwin. This had been her hope after fulfilling her constitutional duties in the United Kingdom.

I know that the Premiers of South Australia and Western Australia, who have been kept informed, share my delight. It will mean many hours of additional travelling by air for The Queen but she does not want to disappoint the people of South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It has been ten years since The Queen has visited those States and the Northern Territory.

The Queen will now return to Australia through Darwin to carry out engagements with The Prince Philip in Adelaide (Friday 8 March), Perth (Saturday 9 March) and Darwin (Sunday 10 March).

The Queen and The Prince Philip accompanied by The Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will arrive in Canberra from Port Moresby on Wednesday 27 February.

Immediately after her arrival at Fairbairn RAAF Base The Queen, The Prince Philip, The Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will drive to Civic Centre, Canberra, for a formal ceremonial welcome to be followed by a walk around part of City Hill to enable them to meet and talk to the citizens of the National Capital.

The Queen and The Prince Philip will stay at Government House, Canberra.

The Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will travel to Sydney as planned to stay overnight with the Governor of New South Wales and Lady Cutler.

In Canberra, The Queen will open the Second Session of the 28th Parliament on Thursday 28 February and then leave for Sydney from where she and The Princess Anne with Captain Phillips will leave by air for London.

The Prince Philip's itinerary thereafter will be

Fri 1 Mar	10.40 a.m. 12.00 noon	Leave Canberra Arrive Adelaide
Sat 2 Mar		Engagements in South Australia
Sun 3 Mar		
Mon 4 Mar		
Tue 5 Mar	12.00 noon 2.15 p.m.	Leave Adelaide Arrive Perth
Wed 6 Mar		Engagements in Western Australia
Thu 7 Mar		
Fri 8 Mar	10.45 a.m. 2.45 p.m.	Leave Perth Arrive Adelaide

NOTE: When the engagements for Adelaide, Perth and Darwin for The Queen and The Prince Philip are agreed with the Palace, announcements will be made from the respective Royal Visit Organisations.

Contact.....Press Liaison Officer, Royal Visit

Bruce King      95 1249 (Home)  
                    73 3468 (Office)

Text of announcement from Buckingham Palace at 0900 Saturday (8.00 p.m.  
16 February will be as follows: A.E.T.)

"As has already been announced, The Queen will be leaving Canberra on Thursday 28 February, and will be arriving in London by 10.00 a.m. on Friday 1 March. Subsequently Her Majesty will leave London on the evening of 6 March to resume her tour in Australia and to carry out her State Visit to Indonesia. Parliament will be opened on 12 March by a Royal Commission. During The Queen's absence from the tour the Duke of Edinburgh will remain in Australia and will carry out engagements already arranged as appropriate."