



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 336

25 September 1974

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO FIJI AND NORFOLK ISLAND

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, announced in Canberra today that he would be paying official visits to Fiji and Norfolk Island on his way home from his North American visit.

Mr. Whitlam said he had been delighted to accept an invitation from the Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamesese Mara, to attend the celebrations of the Centenary of Fiji's Cession to the British Crown. Mr. Whitlam, accompanied by Mrs. Whitlam, will be in Fiji from 9 - 11 October.

Mr. Whitlam has visited Fiji several times, but this will be his first visit as Prime Minister. He said he was very much looking forward to this opportunity of renewing his acquaintance with Fiji and its Government and people. Australia had many close ties with Fiji and he was glad of the opportunity his visit would provide to underline the importance Australia placed on its relations with South Pacific countries, and to further deepen the friendly spirit of co-operation and equal partnership appropriate between close neighbours.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Whitlam will pay a short visit to Norfolk Island for the Bi-Centenary, arriving on 11 October, before returning to Australia on 13 October.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.