



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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AUSTRALIA/JAPAN MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today that the Australian/Japan Ministerial Committee will meet in Canberra on 2 and 3 May 1975. The meeting will be the third in a series of annual Ministerial consultations between Australia and Japan. The first was held in Canberra in 1972, and the second took place in Tokyo in 1973.

The Australian delegation will be led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Willesee, who will also chair the meeting. Mr Whitlam said that as he would be absent at the Meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in Jamaica at the time the Committee would be meeting, he had asked Dr Cairns, who will be Acting Prime Minister at the time, to open the Committee officially on his behalf. In addition to Dr Cairns and Senator Willesee, other Australian Ministers taking part in the meeting will include the Minister for Overseas Trade (Mr Crean), the Minister for Minerals and Energy (Mr Connor) and the Minister for Agriculture (Senator Wriedt).

The Japanese delegation will be led by the Foreign Minister, Mr Kuchi Miyazawa, who will be making his first visit to Australia since joining the Japanese Cabinet. Other Ministers in the Japanese delegation will include the Minister for International Trade and Industry (Mr Toshio Komoto) and the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry (Mr Shintaro Abe). The Japanese delegation is also expected to include two very senior officials from the Finance Ministry and Economic Planning Agency.

The agenda will cover, following a keynote address by Dr Cairns, discussion of a broad range of issues, including international and national economic and financial matters, bilateral and multilateral trade questions and related topics of mutual interest.