

Mr. Jeand**PRIME MINISTER**DRAFTFOR PRESS

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VISIT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Government warmly welcomes the visit to Australia next week of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Kurt Waldheim. Mr Waldheim will be in Australia from 8 - 11 February.

Mr Waldheim's visit is in reponse to a long-standing invitation from Australia. This invitation was renewed when the Liberal/National Country Party Government took office.

Mr Waldheim has shown himself to be a statesman of world standing. During his period of office there have been significant and important changes in the United Nations, particularly in its greater attention to world economic problems.

Australia, an original member of the United Nations, will continue to give strong support to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Mr Waldheim's visit will provide an opportunity for discussion of many subjects of mutual interest and concern.

BIOGRAPHY OF MR KURT WALDHEIM

Mr Waldheim (57) is a former Austrian Foreign Minister and permanent representative to the UN. He was appointed Secretary-General of the UN for a five-year term on 1 January 1972. He is the fourth man to hold the post in the UN's 30-year history. The others were Mr Trygve Lie, Mr Dag Hammarskjold and U Thant.

Mr Waldheim was born on 21 December 1918, the son of an Austrian schoolteacher and the grandson of a blacksmith.

During the Second World War he was drafted into the German Army and served on the Russian front where he was wounded in 1941.

He graduated from the University of Vienna as a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1944. He entered the Austrian diplomatic service and was Ambassador to Canada from 1956 to 1960. He was Austria's Permanent Representative to the UN from 1964 to 1968, and his country's Foreign Minister from 1968 to 1970. He was again Austria's Permanent Representative in 1970.

In 1971 he was the Conservative candidate in the Austrian presidential elections. He lost narrowly.

Since becoming Secretary-General in 1972 he has travelled widely consulting Governments and exercising the good offices of the UN in the cause of peace.

Mr Waldheim is married and has a son and two daughters. His wife is accompanying him to Australia.

ITINERARY OF MR KURT WALDHEIM

SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY

- 0955 Arrives Sydney (Flight QF4)
- 1430 Sydney Harbour cruise
- 1900 UN Association dinner at Wentworth hotel

MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY

- 0830 Leaves for Canberra (flight TN421)
- 0910 Arrives Canberra
- 1000 Talks with the Foreign Minister,
Mr Peacock and senior Foreign Affairs
officials.
- 1230 National Press Club lunch
- 1445-
1600 Sightseeing tour
- 1900 Dinner by Minister for Foreign Affairs

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY

- 1130 Talks with the Prime Minister
- 1230 Luncheon by the Prime Minister
- 1430 Talks with the Leader of the Opposition
- 1625 Leaves for Sydney (flight TN526)
- 1700 Arrives Sydney
- 1945 Attend Opera House performance by
Australian Opera Company

WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY

- 0900 Tour of Sydney
- 1200 Leaves for Manila