



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

20 February 1976

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND

My visit to New Zealand from 8 March to 11 March is in response to an invitation from the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, for discussions on matters of mutual interest.

The visit will also provide the opportunity to attend the special meeting of the South Pacific Forum which is being held in New Zealand (at Lake Okataina on 8-9 March) and to explore with South Pacific the ways in which Australia can further develop co-operation with the countries of the region.

The visit to New Zealand so soon after the elections in both countries reflects the importance which both attach to a uniquely close relationship.

With no country have we more common interests and connections than with New Zealand, our neighbour in the South Pacific, partner in many fields, fellow member of ANZUS and of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The visit will provide the chance to establish a close working relationship with Mr Muldoon and for an exchange of views on economic and other issues facing both Governments.