



PRIME MINISTER

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TRADE UNION TALKS

Talks are to be held with the Trade Union Movement on June 7, 11 and 12 following the return of Mr Hawke from the I.L.O. Conference in Geneva and before the departure of the Prime Minister to Japan and China.

I will be spending a significant amount of time at the Conference. It will be attended by senior Ministers among them the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, the Treasurer, and other specialist Ministers such as the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, and the Minister for Industry and Commerce.

We will be prepared to discuss with Mr Hawke whether there are particular areas where he would like Government expertise to be made available to the Trade Union Movement.

At the Conference the Government will lay fully on the table the advice available on the economy from the Treasury, the Reserve Bank and other Departments so there can be the fullest possible understanding of the state of Australia.

It will be open at the Conference for discussion to take place on options, possibilities, and opportunities.

For the Government, I am glad that Mr Hawke and the A.C.T.U. have responded to the request by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations as a result of my statement last night.

This may be a beginning but it is an indication that diverse groups can recognise a common cause and work for that cause.

I have had a number of conversations with Mr Hawke and so has the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. These conversations have been cooperative and constructive.

We are about to embark on equivalent talks with employers.

The President of the A.C.T.U. made a request to us concerning industrial legislation. We indicated that we would not proclaim that legislation although we would wish it to go through Parliament.

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We would also be prepared to listen to views the union movement may express and we would do that without prejudice. The talks which Mr Street has already held with the unions concerning secret ballot legislation had already resulted in modification to that legislation.

By the time these talks take place union delegates will have had the opportunity to examine these modifications in detail.

I have given a complete guarantee that the Government will examine the views put forward by the union delegates in good faith.

I also emphasise that the Government is committed to the principal of secret ballot legislation.

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