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PRIME MINISTERFOR PRESS11 JUNE 1976THE QUEENS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA: MARCH 1977

The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh will arrive in Australia at Canberra on Monday 7 March 1977 by air from New Zealand and will leave from Perth on Wednesday 30 March.

In the course of their stay and after Canberra, they will engage in an itinerary which will take them to Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, in that order.

The Queen has not visited South Australia and Western Australia since 1963. In March 1974 here planned visits to both States had to be cancelled in order to fulfill constitutional duties in Britain following a General Election. At that time it was Her Majesty's hope and intention to re-visit these States when it proved possible and appropriate.

For next year's visit, The Queen has asked that her itinerary include added time in both States. They will therefore be in South Australia from Saturday 19 to Wednesday 23 March and in Western Australia from Saturday 26 to Wednesday 30 March.

It has already been announced by the Papua New Guinea authorities that The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Papua New Guinea from 23 to 26 March. During that period the Royal Yacht Britannia will travel from South Australia to Western Australia.

On Wednesday 26 March the Royal aircraft on its flight from Papua New Guinea to Western Australia, will stop at Darwin to enable Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to have some time with citizens of the Northern Territory.

The precise amount of time which The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will spend in the States on the eastern side of the continent has yet to be determined. It is unlikely in any instance to exceed two days. The dates which are in mind at present could undergo slight changes when further details of the transport possibilities are related to the planning of the program.

Mon. 7 March	Arrival at Canberra
Wed. 9 March	Canberra/Queensland
Fri. 11 March	Queensland/New South Wales
Sun. 13 March	Possible rest day
Mon. 14 March	Arrival in Tasmania
Wed. 16 March	Tasmania/Victoria
Fri. 18 March	Possible rest day
Sat. 19 March	Arrival in South Australia

The Royal Yacht Britannia is expected to be in Australian waters at the time of The Queen's visit and its presence will have a number of agreeable results. It will be available as a means of transport and of rest when moving from point to point. It will allow The Queen to enter some Australian cities from seaward and will be available for such entertaining as Her Majesty may choose to do.

Consultations between the Commonwealth and the States will take place to prepare in draft form, a programme of engagements for the visit. Those details will be announced when an approved programme has been decided.

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