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PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

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The Prime Minister announced today that he would be making a two day working visit to Japan in April. He would arrive in Tokyo on 19 April.

Mr Fraser said that he believed that there were important international economic problems that he should discuss with Mr Fukuda, and he had suggested to Mr Fukuda that there would be advantage in their meeting before Mr Fukuda left on his forthcoming visit to Washington. Mr Fukuda had readily agreed.

Mr Fraser said the world still faced significant economic problems and he was concerned that all avenues be explored to bring about an improvement in international economic development.

He welcomed the opportunity for discussions with Mr Fukuda in an informal and personal way. He expected that these would cover the general problem of the world economic situation, and matters such as world trade and the North-South Dialogue for international economic development.

Mr Fraser stressed that he would not be seeking to negotiate bilateral matters with Mr Fukuda on this occasion. The Deputy Prime Minister had only recently returned from Japan where he had held extensive and useful talks with the Japanese Government and business leaders on these issues.