



**PRIME MINISTER**

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VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCHEEL

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Walter Scheel, will make a State visit to Australia in the second half of this year, probably in October.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Dr Mildred Scheel.

The Prime Minister said today that President Scheel's visit to Australia would be the first by a Head of State of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Australian Government warmly welcomed the visit, which would mark a further stage in the development of closer relations between the two countries, and provide a further opportunity for discussions on a range of important bilateral and international matters of interest to both countries.

The Prime Minister noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of high-level visits between the two countries in recent times. This was a trend which he welcomed.

He recalled with pleasure his own visit to Bonn in June 1977.