



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

1 JUNE 1978

NORTHERN TERRITORY SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Commonwealth Government is proposing that the Northern Territory Government be given membership of the Premiers' Conferences after the Territory enters a new phase of self-government on 1 July.

The Commonwealth Government also favours granting to the Territory Government full membership of the Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations.

Letters have been sent to State Premiers setting out these proposals and also proposing that the Territory be invited to attend the Premiers' Conference in June, with observer status.

In the past, executive members of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly have attended most of the Commonwealth/State Standing Ministerial Councils as observers.

The Government also believes it would be appropriate for the Territory to be awarded full membership of Commonwealth/State Consultative bodies where responsibility for the relevant function is transferred to the new Government.

The Commonwealth Government accordingly will sponsor full membership for the Northern Territory of these bodies when they first meet after 1 July.
