



## PRIME MINISTER

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### STRENGTHENED LIAISON WITH ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

The Prime Minister today announced that back bench Members of the Government Parties would be available in each State to assist the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs with promoting liaison with ethnic communities.

Mr Fraser said that the Galbally Report on Migrant Services and Programs and the Government's acceptance of that Report had been very well received in these communities.

The Government was determined to have established lines of communication with the migrant population. The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs however, had found it virtually impossible to accept all invitations for him to visit or attend functions organised by the various ethnic organisations and communities throughout Australia.

The Prime Minister said the State nominees would be ready on occasions to stand in for the Minister, to continue the development of the positive information to them and to relay their views back to the Minister.

The nominated members are:

New South Wales	Mr Cadman, Mr Connolly
Victoria	Mr Falconer, Mr Simon
Western Australia	Mr McLean
South Australia	Senator Messner
Tasmania	Senator Walters
Queensland	Mr Hodges
Australian Capital Territory	Mr Haslem
Northern Territory	Senator Kilgariff

## AIR FARES

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources, Mr Anthony, at Southport.

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People who are criticising the Minister for Transport Mr Nixon on international air fare negotiations are talking either through their hat or their pocket.

Mr Nixon has done a fantastic job in negotiating significant reductions in airfares not only for Australians travelling overseas but for people from other countries coming to Australia.

He has insisted that cheaper fares for Australians must be matched by cheaper fares for visitors to Australia. Ultimately these arrangements will be very beneficial not only for Australian travellers but for the Australian tourist industry.

In discussions this morning with the Gold Coast Visitors Bureau it was emphasised to me that for tourist areas outside Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra to benefit, the question of "add-on" fares must be examined.

The Government is in fact discussing this question with both international and domestic airlines. In the meantime if we want more foreign tourists to visit areas outside the capital cities the first step is to persuade them to come to Australia.

I am not aware of any strong reaction from ASEAN countries following the air fare negotiations which have commenced with those countries.

The discussions held in Canberra last week were cordial and I know that Mr Nixon hopes that cheaper air fares from Australia to all ASEAN countries and return will be the outcome of the negotiations.

15 January 1978.