

Mr. Yeend
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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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GIFT OF ARAB STALLION

A final selection has been made of an Arab stallion to be presented as an official gift from Australia to India.

The selection was announced today after a meeting between the Prime Minister, Major V.P. Singh, Commander of the Bodyguard of the President of India, and Colonel S.B.L. Kapoor, Military Adviser, Indian High Commission.

Major Singh was invited to Australia to make the final selection of an Arab stallion which the Prime Minister had offered to the President of India during his recent visit.

A short-list of stallions had been chosen in consultation with the President of the Australian Arabian Horse Society and an international Arab horse judge, Mr John Wyatt.

The horse selected is a grey Arab stallion, Podarge, bred at the Crofts Arabian Stud, Silverdale, New South Wales. He is 15.2 hands and 6 years old. Podarge is the Champion Arab stallion of the 1979 National (Canberra) Show and the son of Aethon, Supreme Champion at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for five consecutive years.

Podarge will be used by the Presidential Bodyguard in New Delhi for all ceremonial occasions for the President and for visiting Heads of State. It is planned that Podarge will become the founder sire for the Indian Arab Horse Society.

Mr Fraser said that the appearance of Podarge in ceremonial parades would be a symbol of the strong ties of friendship between Australia and India.

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