



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

JANUARY 24, 1980

OVERSEAS VISIT -

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, said today that both the President of France, President Giscard d'Estaing, and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chancellor Schmidt, had indicated that they would welcome an opportunity of discussions on the international situation. Mr Fraser has therefore decided to extend his forthcoming overseas visit by a day for the purpose of an engagement with the Chancellor in Bonn on 5 February and with the President in Paris on 6 February. Mr Fraser will now return to Australia on 11 February.

Mr Fraser had indicated last week that he would be visiting Washington and London for discussions with President Carter and Prime Minister Thatcher on the crisis brought about by the Soviet military takeover of Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister also announced that he would be accompanied on his overseas visit by the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister, Mr Michael MacKellar.

Officials from the Departments of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Resources and Defence, and the Office of National Assessments will also accompany the Prime Minister, including,

Sir Geoffrey Yeend, CBE, Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Mr P.G.F. Henderson, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs

Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot, KBE, AO, Chief of Defence Force Staff

Mr W.B. Pritchett, Secretary, Department of Defence

Mr R.W. Furlonger, Director-General, Office of National Assessments

Mr L.P. Duthie, Deputy Secretary, Department of Trade and Resources

Mr Fraser will leave Australia next Monday.