



PRIME MINISTER



FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY, 1980

VISIT BY PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

It will be announced in London today that Princess Alexandra and her husband the Hon. Angus Ogilvy will visit Australia in late September/early October 1980 and that Her Royal Highness will be in Melbourne on Wednesday, 1 October, 1980 to open the new wing of the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings.

The announcement arises from an invitation which I discussed with Princess Alexandra and her husband during my visit there at the beginning of this month.

At an earlier date the Premier of Victoria, Mr. Hamer on behalf of the Government of Victoria had proposed to the Commonwealth Government that a member of the Royal Family visit Melbourne in early October to participate in the one hundredth anniversary celebrations of the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings. I was pleased to support the proposal and to see whether such a visit for that purpose could be arranged.

Actual dates for Princess Alexandra's visit have yet to be decided. These details, including other States to be visited, will be announced as soon as practicable.

Background note:

This will be Princess Alexandra's fourth visit to Australia.

The first occasion was in August/September 1959 for Queensland's centenary of responsible Government. Her itinerary began in Canberra and after three weeks in Queensland there were shorter visits to New South Wales and Victoria.

In February/March 1967 Princess Alexandra and her husband visited Canberra and Sydney privately.

Their last visit was in September/October 1978 when Her Royal Highness visited Canberra, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory in that sequence.