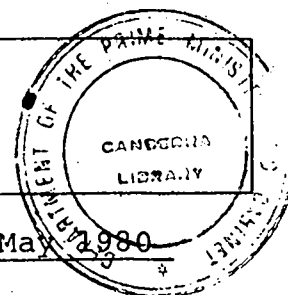




PRIME MINISTER



FOR MEDIA

7 May 1980

THE CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

The Commonwealth Government has decided to propose Hobart as the site for the headquarters of an international Conservation Commission to be established under the proposed Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

This proposal has been under discussion for some time with the Premier of Tasmania and has been pursued informally during earlier international meetings developing the Convention.

Delegates from 15 countries are meeting in Canberra from today until 20 May 1980 to draw up the text of the Convention, which has been under negotiation in international forums for over two years.

Australia's decision to propose Hobart as the headquarters of the Conservation Commission reflects the Commonwealth's determination to promote Tasmania's pre-eminence in fields of study and research relating to Antarctic and marine matters.

There have been several other important Commonwealth initiatives to assist Tasmania in this respect, including establishment of the Australian Maritime College in Launceston, transfer to Hobart of the Antarctic Division of the Department of Science and the Environment, and most recently, the Government's decision to establish a Marine Science Centre in Hobart including the transfer of the CSIRO Division of Fisheries and Oceanography.

The Commonwealth's recent initiatives in this respect, including the proposal for Hobart as the site for the international Conservation Commission, reflect the positive response taken by the Commonwealth to the report of Sir Bede Callaghan on his examination of the structure of industry and the employment situation in Tasmania.

The meeting of delegates in Canberra to discuss the draft Convention on Antarctic Marine Living Resources is the culmination of a long negotiating process which commenced with an earlier Canberra meeting in March 1978 to prepare the basic negotiating text.

.../2