

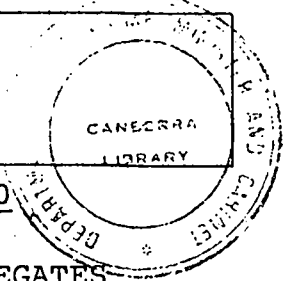


PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 9 MAY, 1980

VISIT TO HOBART BY ANTARCTIC CONVENTION DELEGATES



Delegates to the International Conference on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, currently meeting in Canberra, will travel to Hobart this weekend by RAAF (VIP) aircraft. The delegation will travel with Mr. Newman, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs, who will lead their visit to Hobart.

The visit has been arranged as a result of the strong representations I have received from Federal Government Members and Senators in Tasmania, to ensure that the permanent headquarters of the proposed International Conservation Commission for Antarctic Marine Living Resources will be established in Hobart.

Such a move has been strongly advanced by the Australian delegation at the Conference in Canberra, and also through informal diplomatic contacts over a long period.

These continuing Australian moves to secure Hobart's selection by the international delegates as the site of the headquarters, are an extension of previous Commonwealth initiatives to ensure Tasmania's pre-eminence in fields relating to Antarctic and marine matters.

Senior delegates from the fifteen nations taking part in the Conference will have an opportunity to see for themselves the significance of the initiatives undertaken by the Commonwealth Government to strengthen Tasmania's position in these fields. These have included 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. These actions are a part of the Commonwealth's positive response to the report by Sir Bede Callaghan on the structure of industry and the employment situation in Tasmania.

The Commonwealth's support for the visit is a reflection of the importance the Government attaches to the representations I have received in support of Hobart as the preferred site for the Conservation Commission headquarters.