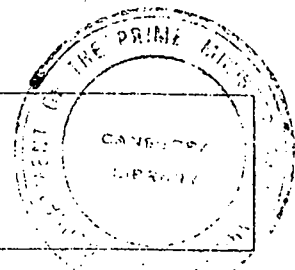




PRIME MINISTER



FOR MEDIA

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 1980

PROPOSAL FOR NEW ZEALAND TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE RECREATION MINISTERS' COUNCIL

The Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, announced today that he had sought the agreement of all State Premiers and the Chief Minister for the Northern Territory to the Australian Government's proposals to invite the New Zealand Government to send its Minister responsible for Recreation and Sport to meetings of the Recreation Ministers' Council.

In detailing some of the background to the proposal, Mr Fraser said that since its establishment in 1973, Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers have met regularly for the purpose of co-ordinating the development of sport and recreation in Australia. At its last meeting, Ministers agreed that as there are a great many areas of common interest with New Zealand, not least in the sport and recreation field, it would be desirable to invite the appropriate New Zealand Minister to join the Council as an observer - thus expanding the scope for better communications in this area between the two countries.

"The proposal is in harmony with the recent discussions I had with the New Zealand Prime Minister in Wellington on 20/21 March", Mr Fraser commented. "At these consultations we agreed on a framework for developing an even closer relationship between the two countries in a wide range of activities".

"Both Mr Muldoon and myself are concerned to ensure that a closer relationship between Australia and New Zealand should provide a stronger base for the expansion of their links with other countries, particularly those of the Pacific and South East Asia".