



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER, 1980

DARWIN AIRPORT

Civil aviation facilities at the RAAF Base at Darwin are to be developed over the next five years as part of a general development which will include stationing a tactical fighter squadron at Darwin.

The complex will cater for expected airline passenger growth at Darwin into the 21st century, and is estimated to cost \$40 million.

The decision is the result of an agreement reached with the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Mr. Everingham and is subject to final definition of a site but it is not expected that any disagreement will arise on this matter.

These developments are taking place because of the expanding needs of both civil aviation and the RAAF. Close contact will be maintained, at all times, with the Northern Territory Government during the planning of the new complex.

The work will involve the building of a new terminal, support buildings, new taxiways, aircraft apron and access roads to cater for international, domestic, and general aviation.

The development will contribute significantly to the Northern Territory economy in the years ahead. Close attention, as always, will be given to environmental issues and measures to keep aircraft noise and road traffic problems to a minimum.

Additionally, RAAF maintenance facilities are being developed over the next two years at a cost of \$4.5 million. A defence radar control and reporting unit is also being re-established and should be operational by 1982.

These works, together with new married quarters, will enable a tactical fighter squadron to be permanently located in Darwin for the first time since 1967.