



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1980

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 1981

At the Lusaka Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in August 1979, Australia's offer to host the 1981 meeting was accepted.

The 1981 meeting will be the largest Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting so far, with 41 countries now being entitled to attend, including Zimbabwe and Vanuatu for the first time.

In addition to the Heads of Government it is expected that there will be many other official delegates including Ministers, and that there will be a large contingent of media representatives visiting Australia for the meeting.

Because of the size of the conference facilities required for a meeting of this magnitude and the large amount of hotel accommodation needed for all the visitors, the Government decided that the meeting would take place in Melbourne using the Exhibition Building as the venue.

Following consultations by the Commonwealth Secretary General with member Governments of the Commonwealth as to the dates of the meeting, it has now been confirmed that the meeting will take place from Wednesday 30 September 1981 to Wednesday 7 October 1981.

As has already been announced, the Heads of Government will visit Canberra during the intervening weekend for the traditional retreat at which they will carry on the work of the meeting in less formal surroundings away from the conference table.