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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST, 1981

WORLD TRADE CENTRE

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister
Mr. Anthony

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Anthony, today announced the Commonwealth Government's intention to lease office space in the World Trade Centre, Melbourne.

The World Trade Centre complex is a major undertaking of the Victorian Government which will provide a comprehensive service to assist in the development and facilitation of international trade in Melbourne.

The Commonwealth Government is pleased to be associated with the project and also pleased that elements of its trade-related Departments will be able to give support to assisting the Centre in its role of developing Victoria's exports.

The Commonwealth Departments involved are Trade and Resources, Business and Consumer Affairs and Primary Industry. The Trade and Resources element will provide a comprehensive information service on international trading matters as well as a market advisory service for developing countries. The customs element of the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs will be located in the Centre to provide customs services. These two Departments will move to the World Trade Centre as soon as accommodation is available. The Primary Industry element will move into the Centre when the lease of its current premises expires in 1984.

The location of all these Departments in the World Trade Centre and their proximity to the Port of Melbourne, the city centre and commercial trading organisations will, in the Commonwealth Government's view, be of great assistance in the development of Victoria's international trade.