



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH, 1982

## VISIT OF PRESIDENT KARAMANLIS OF GREECE

The President of the Hellenic Republic, His Excellency Mr Constantine Karamanlis, will be making a State Visit to Australia from Tuesday 9 to Sunday 14 March 1982.

The visit will be the first to Australia by a Greek Head of State.

The President's program will include a number of public events in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne which will provide an opportunity for the many thousands of people of Greek descent living in Australia to welcome him.

The ties between Australia and Greece are wide-ranging but none is more important than the personal links which have resulted from Greek migration to Australia - the Greek community is one of Australia's oldest and biggest migrant groups.

I am personally looking forward to welcoming President Karamanlis and I am certain that the reception he receives from all Australians will be a warm one.

President Karamanlis will arrive in Canberra at 10.30 am on Tuesday 9 March and remain until Thursday 11 March. He will be in Sydney from 11-13 March and in Melbourne from 13-14 March.

In Canberra on Tuesday 9 March, the President will attend a State dinner given by the Governor-General of Australia and Lady Cowen. On that day he will also visit the Australian War Memorial. On Wednesday 10 March, the President will be guest of honour at a State Luncheon at Parliament House. Included among the guests will be representatives of the Greek Community throughout Australia. President Kramanlis will also attend a reception at Government House at which heads of Diplomatic Missions will be presented and a dinner at the Hellenic Club arranged by the Greek community.

In Sydney the President's public functions will include his attendance at a Thanksgiving Service at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Redfern on Friday 12 March and a reception at the Sydney Town Hall arranged by the Greek community, followed by a brief public address. In Melbourne on Sunday 14 March the President will watch a parade by members of the Greek community and lay a wreath at the Shrine of Remembrance. He will also deliver a Greek National Day address at the Shrine.