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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, MAY 4 1982

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Prime Minister announced today that he will visit the Republic of Korea later this month in response to an invitation extended to him by the Korean Government.

The visit to Korea will be the first by an Australian Prime Minister since that made by Mr Holt in 1967. The Prime Minister will arrive in Seoul from Japan on 23 May and leave for Australia on 25 May.

The Prime Minister said that Australia's relations with the ROK continue to grow in importance. The Korean Peninsula was an area of regional and strategic contention; its stability and the security of the ROK were important to Australia.

The ROK has also developed as one of Australia's most important trading partners, with two way trade valued at almost \$1 billion in the last calendar year.

The Prime Minister said that the visit will provide an opportunity to discuss important regional and international developments as well as the further development of bilateral relations.

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