



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 1982

VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA BY MR SINCLAIR

The Right Honourable Ian Sinclair, MP, Minister for Defence, will present the Australian Government's condolences in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on the death of His Majesty King Khaled bin Abdul-Aziz bin Abdul-Rahman Al Sa'ud, King of Saudi Arabia.

King Khaled passed away on 13 June and has been succeeded by his brother, King Fahd bin Abdul-Aziz bin Abdul-Rahman Al Sa'ud.

A number of other countries will be sending high level delegations to Riyadh to express condolences. These include Vice President George Bush from the United States, Prince Philip and Secretary of State Pym from Britain, King Juan Carlos of Spain and President Mubarak of Egypt.

The Australian Government's decision to send a senior Minister to present condolences in Riyadh is a mark of the respect in which King Khaled was held and the importance that is attached to the relations between Australia and Saudi Arabia. During the seven year reign of King Khaled, Saudi Arabia has assumed an increasingly important role in world political and economic affairs, and has played an important stabilizing role in Middle East affairs. Australia's relations with Saudi Arabia also developed strongly during King Khaled's reign.

Mr Sinclair will present condolences in Riyadh on 16 June and will return to Australia the next day.

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