



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY JUNE 23 1982

## 13TH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

I shall be attending the 13th South Pacific Forum Meeting to be held in Rotorua, New Zealand, on 9 and 10 August 1982.

The South Pacific is a region of primary importance to Australia. The Forum has since its inception in 1971 provided a unique opportunity for regular meetings of Heads of Government of independent and self-governing South Pacific States, including Australia and New Zealand. The forum has been the instigator of many positive measures of regional co-operation which have been developed in the South Pacific, and has been the chief means by which leaders have maintained regular contact with one another in an area where distance often makes such contact difficult.

I am looking forward to exchanging views with South Pacific leaders on regional and international political and economic developments of significance to member governments. I shall also have an opportunity to have bilateral discussions with Heads of Government of neighbouring island states and New Zealand.