



Department
of Trade and
Resources

Media Release

CER SIGNING BY SATELLITE

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister
and Minister for Trade and Resources, the Rt. Hon.
J.D. Anthony, C.H., M.P.)

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. Muldoon, and I will sign the Heads of Agreement of the Closer Economic Relationship between Australia and New Zealand during a two-way satellite transmission at noon on Tuesday 14 December. This will be the first time, to my knowledge, that a television satellite link has been used for the signing of such an agreement. I believe it is appropriate that the latest technology should be used to conclude such an important forward-looking agreement.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Muldoon and his delegation will be located at New Zealand's Parliament House, in Wellington, while I, other cabinet Ministers and senior industry representatives will be in the Senate Committee rooms at Parliament House in Canberra.

Mr. Muldoon and I will each have previously signed a copy of the Agreement. These copies will be exchanged at the satellite ceremony, and signed by the other party. There are several advantages in signing the Agreement in this way. The most obvious are the economies achieved in terms of cost and time: one delegation does not have to travel from one country to the other, and all Ministers who have been involved in working towards the progress of the CER can participate in the formal ceremony. Also, the general public in both countries is able to participate as observers to the actual signing. The signing will be telecast live in New Zealand.

Canberra
9 December 1982

Memo: To Heads of Bureaux

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND CER SATELLITE SIGNING
TUESDAY, 14 DECEMBER

You or your representatives are invited to attend the CER signing ceremony in Senate Committee Rooms 1 and 2, Parliament House on Tuesday 14 December.

The Pacific satellite has been booked from 11.55 a.m. - 12.25 p.m. and it is expected that the televised link between Canberra and Wellington will commence at noon.

The signing ceremony will take 8 - 10 minutes and will consist of the formal signing of the Heads of Agreement by Mr. Muldoon and Mr. Anthony and brief speeches by both leaders.

The official party at the Australian end will be:

The Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources, The Hon A. Peacock, Minister for Industry and Commerce, The Hon. P.J. Nixon, Minister for Primary Industry, The Hon. A.A. Street, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sir Laurie Francis, New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr. H.G. Aston, Immediate Past President, Confederation of Australian Industry, Mr. J. Utz, Chairman, Australia/New Zealand Businessmen's Council.

At the end of the signing ceremony, Mr. Anthony will be available to answer questions from media representatives.

If you are attending, it would be appreciated if you could be seated by 11.45 a.m.

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Anthony has designated the signing an event of national importance. Accordingly, all radio and TV bearers will be made available for the duration of the satellite bookings (11.55 a.m. - 12.25 p.m.). The New Zealand composite program will be relayed back to Moree and made available for distribution to stations throughout the Commonwealth.

For further information please contact Mr. John Walker, Senior Publicity Liaison Officer, Department of Trade and Resources, Telephone: 72 2638.

For information on technical aspects of the television link, please contact Mr. Ben Naveau, Manager Operations, Capital 7, Canberra, Telephone: 411 000