



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

21 February 1984

All State Governments and companies at today's meeting on prospects for co-operation between the Australian and Chinese iron and steel industries expressed strong interest in and support for the initiative.

The point of contact on the initiative between Australia and China will be a joint working party of the Australia China Joint Trade Committee.

The Australian contribution to the joint study will be based on exchanges of viewpoints and information with State Governments, the trade unions and Australian companies.

Senior federal representatives will return to China in early April to outline Australian views on the range of the joint study. They will also explain the organisational support that will be provided to pursue the iron and steel co-operation initiative.

The meeting today involved State Governments and major commercial parties who could foreseeably be involved in the initiative between the iron and steel industries of Australia and China.

I have already had contact with the President and Secretary of the ACTU about this matter and there will be further meetings with representatives of the trade union movement.

During today's meeting I detailed what had taken place in discussions with the Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and other Ministers in Beijing. Discussions included agreement to promote closer co-operation between the Chinese and Australian steel industries in the areas of:

- . prospects for increased Australian iron ore exports to China
- . prospects for increased Australian iron and steel exports to China
- . possible Australian investment in joint ventures in the Chinese steel industry
- . prospects for technical co-operation in upgrading Chinese coastal steel mills
- . possible Chinese investment in iron ore mining in Australia.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING ON INITIATIVE FOR CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES OF AUSTRALIA AND CHINA

Federal Government

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Industry and Commerce

New South Wales

The Hon. J.R. Hallam,
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Queensland

The Hon. I. Gibbs,
Minister for Mines and Energy

Victoria

The Hon. L. Cathie, Minister for
Economic Development

Western Australia

The Hon. David Parker, Minister
for Minerals and Energy

South Australia

Mr L. Rowe, Director, Department of
State Development

Tasmania

Mr G. Oakes, Senior Executive
Officer, Department of Mines

BHP

Mr D.M. Rice, Executive General
Manager (Steel)

CRA

Mr T. Barlow, Chairman (Hamersley
Holdings)

Aust. Coal Association

Dr J.B. Ritchie, Executive Director

CSR

Mr A.W. McAuley, Assistant General
Manager

Cliff Robe River

Mr V. Koontz