



# PRIME MINISTER

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 3.00P.M.

1 FEBRUARY, 1985

FOR MEDIA

## VISIT OF HU YAOBANG

The General-Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) Hu Yaobang is to pay a goodwill visit to Australia on April 13-18 at the invitation of the Australian Government.

Mr Hu will be accompanied by Hu Qili, member of the Secretariat and a number of other important officials of the CPC and the Government.

This will be an important event in the relationship between Australia and China, to which the Government attaches a high priority.

It will also enable a continuation of the broad-ranging discussions which I had with the Chinese leadership during my visit to China a year ago, in the course of which I met General-Secretary Hu in Shanghai.

The visit will provide the opportunity for Mr Hu to see something of Australia's development and will give the opportunity for Australia to return the very warm hospitality which I and other Australian Ministers have been shown during visits to China.

I expect that our formal discussions will focus on key issues in the international situation, as well as on the bilateral relationship, in particular, areas of joint economic interest.

The issues of regional security, disarmament and arms control, and East-West relations can be expected to feature prominently.

It is proposed that the General-Secretary visit Western Australia, Canberra and New South Wales

- in Western Australia it is envisaged that Mr Hu will have discussions with the Western Australian Government and travel to the Pilbara. I propose to accompany him during his visit to Western Australia.
- in Canberra Mr Hu will meet the Governor-General, and have discussions with senior Government and political leaders. He will also address the National Press Club.
- in Sydney Mr Hu will have discussions with the NSW Government, attend festivities organised in his honour by the Chinese community in NSW, as well as meeting some members of the Economic Planning and Advisory Council, from the business and trade union fields.

General-Secretary Hu visited Japan in November, 1983.

He has previously visited Yugoslavia, Romania, and North Korea.

His visit to Australia is regarded by the Australian Government as of great importance and is indicative of the close and friendly relations which exist between the peoples of China and Australia.

Born 1915 in Hunan Province, Hu Yaobang has been involved in the affairs of the CPC since his youth. He was elected Head of the CPC in June 1981. In this capacity Mr Hu, along with Deng Xiaoping, Premier Zhao Ziyang and other national leaders, has played a key role in the formulation and implementation of China's modernisation policies. He is also involved in Chinese international relations. Mr Hu is married with four children.