



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

29 AUGUST 1985

At the invitation of Prime Minister Somare I will be visiting Port Moresby on 15 and 16 September to attend Papua New Guinea's Tenth Anniversary of Independence celebrations. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Clyde Holding, will accompany me.

The Tenth Anniversary celebrations will be a special event for both Papua New Guinea and Australia. It will be an occasion to celebrate Papua New Guinea's record of great national achievement since attaining independence ten years ago. Our two countries can take satisfaction in having put the colonial past behind us and developing a relationship of friendship, equality and good neighbourliness.

Australia and Papua New Guinea enjoy close and constructive relations in the region, with shared interests in the activities of bodies such as the South Pacific Forum. We also co-operate in wider international bodies such as the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

I look forward during my visit to signing, together with Prime Minister Somare, a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the basis of our bilateral aid arrangements for the next five years. Consultations on this matter have been successfully concluded between the Foreign Minister, Mr Hayden, and his Papua New Guinea counterpart, Mr Giheno.

In conjunction with my forthcoming visit to Papua New Guinea I also intend to visit the Torres Strait Islands, where I will be having discussions with community leaders, on 15 September.