



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The United States will participate in Expo 88 in Brisbane.

Following my discussions with President Reagan in Washington in February, I have received advice from Mr Charles Z. Wick, Director of the US Information Agency, of official acceptance of Australia's invitation to take part.

Mr Wick, who discussed Expo 88 and the Bicentenary with me in Canberra in August, has now informed me that the US Congress has allocated \$US2.6m as an initial contribution to United States participation in Expo 88.

I very much welcome this advice. United States participation in Expo 88 will be a highlight of Australia's bicentennial celebrations.

The extensive participation by overseas nations in the Bicentenary, including their participation in Expo 88, will help to make 1988 a truly memorable year for Australia.

The theme of Expo 88 is "Leisure in the Age of Technology". It will be staged under the auspices of the Bureau Internationale des Expositions in Brisbane from 30 April to 30 October 1988.

Australia has participated in all three expositions held in the United States in recent times: Spokane in 1974, Knoxville in 1982 and New Orleans in 1984.