



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

6 MARCH 1986

At the invitation of Prime Minister Nakasone, I shall make a working visit to Japan on 15-18 May. This follows my official visit to Japan in early 1984 and Prime Minister Nakasone's visit to Australia in January 1985.

My visit to Japan will provide an opportunity to exchange perspectives on regional and international developments and to develop further our dialogue on the Australia-Japan relationship. Japan is important to us not only because it is our major trading partner. It plays an important role in wider international trading and financial relations and has an increasingly significant voice on international political issues. Australia and Japan share a fundamental interest in the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

My visit will provide a timely opportunity to hear, first hand, the outcome of the Tokyo Economic Summit on 4-6 May.

I expect that my discussions with Mr Nakasone and his Ministers will assist a further strengthening of our dynamic economic relationship with Japan.

In our bilateral dealings Australia is concerned to ensure that our trade with Japan proceeds on a commercial basis, with each country recognising the other's capacity in those areas where it is a competitive and reliable supplier. During my discussions in Tokyo I shall stress the Australian Government's commitment to develop a more efficient and dynamic industrial base - one able to take full advantage of Japan's Market Opening Measures.

My discussions in Tokyo will also provide an opportunity to review the joint efforts of Japan and Australia to promote a successful launching of the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations. The consultative process established through the Regional Trade Initiative provides an important basis on which countries in the region, including Australia and Japan, can further develop shared perceptions and positions in the lead up to a new round.

I shall be paying an official visit to China following my visit to Japan.