



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The United States' most famous Tall Ship, Eagle, will visit Australia to take part in the Bicentennial celebrations.

The three-masted barque is to join an international fleet in the Tall Ships event which will culminate in a parade of sail out of Sydney Harbour on Australia Day, 26 January 1988.

I am delighted that President Reagan's personal undertaking to me to provide a Tall Ship has been fulfilled in this way.

A special feature of the Eagle visit will be the participation of young Australians in the sailing ship's crew. It is planned that at least two young Australians will join the voyage to Australia and back to the US.

The Eagle is expected to arrive in Newcastle on 20 December where it will spend Christmas before joining the Tall Ships event in Brisbane on 30 December for the start of the Bicentennial year.

The Eagle will then proceed to Hobart to participate in the Tall Ships Race to Sydney - the first such race to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The 90-metre-long Eagle is among the larger tall ships of the world and it will bring aboard a crew of about 200, which includes 102 male and 32 female cadets. Originally built in 1936 in Germany and named, Horst Wessel, it was claimed by the United States as part of war reparations and joined the US Coast Guard in 1946.

Tall Ships Australia 1988 is being organised by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and will bring together nationally and privately owned sail training vessels from around the world.

The Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom have also accepted the invitation from my Government to participate in the Tall Ships event. A number of overseas non-government vessels have also accepted ABA's invitation and some are already on their way to Australia. Other overseas vessels are still considering their participation, while numerous Australian groups are well advanced in their plans to join the event.