



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

20 February 1987

The Prime Minister of Tuvalu, the Rt Hon Dr Tomasi Puapua, ~~will be visiting Australia from 21 February to 2 March as a~~ quest of the Australian Government. He will be accompanied by his wife Mrs Riana Puapua.

During his stay in Australia Dr Puapua will visit Melbourne, Perth, Canberra, Brisbane and Townsville. Dr Puapua will hold discussions with myself, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Hayden, the Minister for Defence, Mr Beazley, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Howard. He will call on the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen.

In Perth Dr Puapua will call on the Acting Premier and Minister for Defence Liaison, Mr Bryce, and visit the facilities of Australian Shipbuilding Industries, where the Pacific Patrol Boat Project is underway. Dr Puapua will visit the Expo 88 site in Brisbane and meet the Deputy Premier, Mr W Gunn. In Townsville Dr Puapua will visit the Townsville State High School, where some students from Tuvalu are to study, James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science for discussions on management of the marine environment.

Australia and Tuvalu share a warm and friendly relationship and are partners in South Pacific regional activities. I hope that, as a result of the exchanges during Dr Puapua's visit, an even closer understanding would be reached between Australia and Tuvalu. In December 1986 the Australian Government decided to contribute \$8 million to the Tuvalu Trust Fund, which is designed to allow the Tuvalu Government to achieve financial self-reliance and to plan effectively for the long-term future of its people.