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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

8 FEBRUARY 1988

Their Excellencies the Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen and Lady Stephen will make a State Visit to the People's Republic of China from 9 to 16 February 1988, at the invitation of President Li Xiannian.

Their Excellencies will visit Beijing, Xian, Hangzhou, Kunming and Guangzhou.

The visit, the first by an Australian Head of State, represents a further step in the development of close and friendly ties between Australia and China in the fifteen years since diplomatic relations were established in December 1972.

Sir James Rowland, Governor of New South Wales, will administer the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia during His Excellency's absence.

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