

12



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

16 NOVEMBER 1988

I am very pleased to announce that the President of Greece, His Excellency Christos Sartzetakis, will make a State visit to Australia in our Bicentennial year. He will be in Australia from 22-28 November 1988 and will visit the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and New South Wales.

I welcome this visit by President Sartzetakis as an opportunity to strengthen the already close and friendly relations which exist between the peoples of Australia and Greece. This relationship is founded on a common commitment to democracy, shared historical experiences in time of war, and strong community and personal ties between our two countries. The Greek community has become one of the largest and most active ethnic communities in Australia and Greek Australians have made invaluable contributions to the development of our flourishing multicultural society, across the full range of Australian economic, political and cultural life.

The President's visit will also serve to celebrate the magnificent contribution of Greek Australians to Australia's Bicentenary. A highlight of his visit will occur on 24 November when the President opens the Exhibition of Macedonian Antiquities in Melbourne. This exhibition - the largest of its sort ever to leave Greece - is the valued gift of the Greek Government to Australia and I look forward to being in Melbourne to attend its opening.

While in Canberra, President Sartzetakis and his wife will stay at Government House as guests of their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Stephen. He will meet the Premiers and Governors of New South Wales and Victoria when he visits those States as well as meeting members of the Greek community. The President will be accompanied during his visit by the Greek Minister in charge of International Organisations, Mr Christos Marcopoulos, and the Greek Minister for Macedonia and Thrace, Mr Stylianos-Angelos Papatthemelis.

3487