

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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I will visit France, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Hungary from 16 June to 3 July.

The visit has been carefully targeted to advance Australia's political and economic interests. I will, for instance, be visiting four of the G7 members just a matter of weeks before their annual Summit and three of the leading members of the EC in the context of the proposed European Single Market in 1992. In each of the countries being visited I will be advancing specific Australian interests in areas covering multilateral and bilateral trade, the environment, including matters related to the Antarctic, and disarmament - chemical weapons in particular.

Senior Australian business leaders will be involved in my visits to Paris, London, Bonn and Budapest. A Trade and Investment Conference to be held in conjunction with my visit to London will bring together over 200 senior business people to strengthen and expand commercial ties between Australia and the United Kingdom.

The visit to France will allow me to renew contact with President Mitterrand and to establish closer dialogue with the Rocard Government. I will visit the Australian exhibition at the Paris Air Show and the village of Villers-Bretonneux in north-west France, where thousands of Australian soldiers died during World War I. I will also take part in matters relating to Australia's contribution to the celebration of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution.

My visit to the United Kingdom will return Mrs Thatcher's visit to Australia last year. Our wide ranging discussions will encompass East/West relations and the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kuala Lumpur. At Mrs Thatcher's suggestion, I will be accompanied by Senator Button, Senator Evans and Mr Beazley, who will participate in elements of my program. Senator Button will co-chair the Trade and Investment Conference and Senator Evans will address it.

While in the United Kingdom I will have discussions with Her Majesty, The Queen.

I have been invited to Washington by President Bush for an official visit. In addition to extensive discussions with President Bush himself, I will be meeting with senior members of his Administration and Congressional leaders. An extensive agenda of issues will cover bilateral, regional and global, political and economic developments. My visit to the Federal Republic of Germany will be my first as Prime Minister. The FRG does, of course, have a key role in East/West relations, in international economic matters and in the establishment of the Single European Market in 1992. I am looking forward to discussing these and other significant issues with Chancellor Kohl, who visited Australia last year.

My visit to Hungary comes at an important time of political and economic reform in that country. Those reforms open up the prospect of further significant changes in East/West relations. I look forward to discussing with Prime Minister Nemeth these and other issues related to a strengthening of the bilateral relationship.