



(5)

## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

14 AUGUST 1989

I am pleased to announce that the Prime Minister of France, Mr Michel Rocard, has accepted my invitation to visit Australia as a guest of my government on 18-19 August. This will be the first visit to Australia by a serving French Prime Minister.

On 18 August, we will meet to discuss Antarctica, the environment, the South Pacific, my regional economic initiative and other topics of mutual interest. We expect to make further progress on the issues which we discussed during my visit to Paris in June.

Mr Rocard and I will also hold round table discussions with senior ministers from both Australia and France. In Mr Rocard's party will be Mr Le Pensec, the Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories, and Mrs Avice, the Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs. As part of their program, the accompanying ministers will also meet the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

During Mr Rocard's visit, we will also seek to enhance scientific and technological co-operation between our two countries and Mr Rocard will visit the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Mr Rocard's party will travel to Sydney on 19 August and will attend a conference on the Australian economy and our bilateral trade relations. The Treasurer, Mr Keating, will be present at the conference.