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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

23 August 1989

I am pleased to announce that the Prime Minister of Thailand, General Chatichai Choonhavan, will visit Australia as a guest of my Government from 29 August to 3 September 1989. This will be the second visit by Prime Minister Chatichai, his first as Prime Minister, and the second by a serving Thai Prime Minister. Prime Minister Chatichai will be accompanied by his wife, Khunying Boonruen Choonhavan.

Australia values its close relations with Thailand, an important regional neighbour which is currently achieving rapid economic growth. Prime Minister Chatichai's visit provides the ideal opportunity to maintain and advance the momentum on important issues which was achieved during my visit to Thailand in February this year.

Thailand is an important member of ASEAN which plays a key role in the political stability and economic development of the region. Australia cooperates closely with ASEAN to build upon the many interests we share in terms of stability, peace and economic development. Prime Minister Chatichai's visit will provide the opportunity to exchange views on these mutual concerns.

Our discussions will encompass the development of our economic and trade relationship, other regional and international issues, including Cambodia, and regional economic cooperation.

A number of senior Ministers and a group of businessmen will accompany Prime Minister Chatichai. In addition to my talks with him, there will be discussions among senior Ministers on both sides. Prime Minister Chatichai will also address the Australia/Thai Business Council dinner in Sydney.

During his stay, Prime Minister Chatichai will visit Darwin, Canberra and Sydney.