



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

15 December 1989

I will be paying an official visit to New Zealand from 1-4 February 1990.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Palmer invited me to visit New Zealand in early February next year to participate in New Zealand's 150th Anniversary celebrations. I am very happy to be able to take up his kind invitation.

While in New Zealand, I will be holding extensive discussions with Prime Minister Palmer. Our agenda will cover bilateral, regional and global issues and address environmental, political and economic developments.

I will also have the opportunity to attend some of the events and ceremonies associated with the Commonwealth Games being held in Auckland at the time.

The relationship with New Zealand remains one of our most important bilateral relationships. 1990 is an important year and I know that all Australians will join me in congratulating New Zealand on the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. It is also a year in which both countries will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the ANZAC landing Gallipoli - an event which not only forged the ANZAC ties but also helped to develop a sense of national consciousness in both countries.

I am looking forward very much to the opportunity which this trip provides for me to reaffirm the priority Australia attaches to the relationship with New Zealand, to participate in their 150th celebrations, and to discuss the issues which will sustain this important relationship into the future.