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**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

19 FEBRUARY 1990

World renowned marine explorer, writer and environmentalist, Jacques-Yves Cousteau will visit Australia this week. Captain Cousteau will arrive tomorrow and be in Australia for one week following my invitation to him last year to visit.

Captain Cousteau's program will include visits to centres involved in environmental and marine research and will provide opportunities for wide-ranging discussions on environmental issues. The most important of these is the Australian/French initiative for comprehensive environmental protection of Antarctica.

He will travel to the ACT, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania and will meet with a range of political and community leaders, including representatives of a number of environmental groups. In Tasmania, Captain Cousteau's program will include a visit to the Antarctic Division at Kingston.

In Canberra, Captain Cousteau will be presented with his honorary Companion of the Order of Australia, announced in the recent Australia Day honours list. Captain Cousteau is remembered with particular gratitude by the people of Australia for his untiring efforts to preserve and safeguard the Antarctic environment.