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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

6 JULY 1990

I will attend the 21st South Pacific Forum meeting in Vanuatu from 29 July - 1 August. The South Pacific Forum is the premier organisation of the region and its annual meeting provides the opportunity for regional Heads of Government to exchange views and deliberate on matters of regional concern.

While in Vanuatu I will hold discussions with Prime Minister Father Walter Lini and members of his Government on questions of mutual interest, including bilateral issues and broader regional developments. Australia has a close and constructive relationship with Vanuatu. I look forward to the visit and to attending Vanuatu's tenth independence celebrations.

At the invitation of the French Prime Minister M Michel Rocard, I shall make an official visit to New Caledonia on 27-28 July while en route to the Forum.

I will take the opportunity there to meet government officials and elected representatives from the Territorial and Regional Assemblies including members of the FLNKS and RPCR political groupings.

My Government has been encouraged by the process of reconciliation in New Caledonia set in train by the Matignon Accords. We welcome the continuing commitment of all parties to the political and economic accommodation now occurring in the Territory.