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**PRIME MINISTER**

**AUSTRALIA-MALTA AIR SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS**

The Acting Prime Minister Mr Kim Beazley, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Malta, Dr Guido de Marco announced today that Australia and Malta had agreed to open negotiations immediately on an Air Services Agreement between the two countries.

The Ministers expressed their hope that an Air Services Agreement could be concluded expeditiously, so that scheduled direct air links between the two countries could be established for the first time.

Professor Guido de Marco said that this was a very pleasing outcome from his visit to Australia. It was further evidence of the close working relationship between the Australian and Maltese Governments.

Mr Beazley said that the prospect of direct air links would be of particular interest to the many Australians of Maltese origin, who play an important role in maintaining close relations between both nations. The business community, especially exporters, also stood to gain from the new market access which direct air links might provide.

Canberra  
6 November 1995

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