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PRIME MINISTER**CANCELLATION OF VISITS TO JAPAN AND INDONESIA**

My wife, Janette, will be admitted to a Sydney hospital early this week for a major operation. Naturally I wish to spend as much time as possible with her.

I will, therefore, not be able to proceed with my planned visit to Japan and Indonesia which was to have commenced on the 7th of August.

Yesterday I telephoned President Soeharto personally to advise him of the situation. As the Japanese Prime Minister Mr Hashimoto was not contactable over the weekend I have sent him a personal message.

Arrangements are already in hand to find alternative dates for my visits to both countries. I hope that such visits can take place in the very near future.

28 July 1996