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PRIME MINISTER

Visit to Singapore and China

I am pleased to announce that I will visit Singapore from 26 to 28 March and China from 28 March to 2 April.

I look forward to meeting again the Prime Minister of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, and continuing our discussions on a range of bilateral and regional issues. The bilateral relationship with Singapore is strong and my visit provides an opportunity to build on that foundation.

The Government is committed to strengthening further the important relationship between Australia and China. Twenty-five years after the beginning of the modern relationship between our two countries is an appropriate time to look at how we can carry and expand that relationship into the new century.

In my meeting with President Jiang Zemin in Manila last year, I reaffirmed my commitment to developing a strong framework for advancing the relationship. I look forward to discussing with the Premier, Li Peng, and other Chinese leaders, ways in which we can help Australia's thriving economic relationship with China flourish even more, and promote our political links and social ties to the benefit of both our countries and the region as a whole.

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