
Media Advisory

February 26, 2002

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Media representatives are advised that David Kilgour, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), will visit Australia and New Zealand from March 1 to 8, 2002.

In Coolum, Australia, Mr. Kilgour will participate in meetings of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) and the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Small States, both taking place on Friday, March 1.

Established in 1995 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, CMAG investigates serious and persistent violations of the Harare principles—democratic standards agreed to by all Commonwealth countries in 1991. Present members are Botswana (chair), Barbados (vice-chair), Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Malaysia, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

CMAG will report to this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, taking place from March 2 to 5 in Coolum, Australia, on situations in Zimbabwe, Fiji, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands and the Gambia.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Small States, established at the 1991 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Zimbabwe, seeks to help small countries overcome the unique challenges they face, including vulnerability to economic shocks and threats to sovereignty, security and natural resources.

In Sydney (March 3 and 4), Mr. Kilgour will meet with New South Wales state parliamentarians and participate in a round table discussion on Canada as an Asia-Pacific nation at the University of Western Sydney. From there he will travel to Canberra (March 5) where he will meet with the President of the Australian Senate and senior Australian Aboriginal leaders as well as participate in a round table on challenges in the Pacific region with government officials and academics.

The Secretary of State will visit New Zealand from March 6 to 8. In Wellington (March 6 and 7), he will meet with parliamentarians and senior officials from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and deliver an address to the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs.

