



10 DOWNING STREET

Press Notice

NEW ZEALAND FRIGATE

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP, has today conveyed to the New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Robert Muldoon, CH MP, the British Government's formal acceptance of the offer to make a New Zealand frigate temporarily available to the Royal Navy. Operational control of the frigate, the HMNZS CANTERBURY, will pass immediately to the Royal Navy and it is envisaged that she will operate in the Indian Ocean. This will enable one of the two RN ships on patrol in the area to be released for other operational duties.

The Government is deeply grateful to the New Zealand Government for this generous offer which is indicative of the unstinting support which they have given over the last weeks and is a further example of the close ties which exist between our two navies.

27 May 1982

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