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PRESS RELEASE

Visit to Australia
by Mr. Alain Juppé, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs,

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September 2011

The Senior Minister, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Alain Juppé, will visit Australia on the 10th and 11th of September.

This visit to Australia, the first of this level since 1983, follows Mr. Kevin Rudd's trip to France on April, 25th and 26th 2011. It illustrates the common will of the two countries to heighten bilateral relations towards an ambitious and widened partnership between Australia and France.

In Canberra, Mr. Alain Juppé will hold a meeting with Mr. Kevin Rudd on Sunday 11th of September. The discussions will cover issues encompassing international security, counter-terrorism, nuclear safety, sustainable development in the Pacific region and any relevant topic linked to the current international affairs.

The Minister, along with Mr. Kevin Rudd, will then lay a wreath at the Canberra War Memorial. This ceremony will honour the memory of the 43.000 Diggers fallen on the French soil during World War I, pay tribute to the French and Australian soldiers in Afghanistan and, on this 10th anniversary, commemorate the 3.000 innocent victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

The ceremony which will take place from 11:00am to 11:20am is open for press coverage. The journalists who wish to attend need to arrive at the War Memorial 15 minutes in advance.

Press who wish to interview the Minister on Sunday 11th should confirm their interest at the latest by Saturday, September 10th with Lydie Bertrand, Press Attache (lydie.bertrand@diplomatie.gouv.fr) or with Claire Dupré (claire.dupre@diplomatie.gouv.fr).

Mr. Alain Juppe will later meet Prime Minister, Ms. Julia Gillard. The consultation will broach various issues such as Afghanistan, Europe and the G20 Summit.

A meeting with Ms. Julie Bishop, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, will close the official programme.

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