In normal circumstances, one would expect to take pleasure in welcoming a distinguished guest.

But these are not normal times and the nature of our greeting could be greatly affected because of the warnings, from a number of quarters, that a demonstration will take place while Mrs Thatcher is here.

There can be no question that Mrs Thatcher has a perfect right to visit this University. It is the right of any bona fide University organisation to invite whomever it pleases to speak here. That is not a right that should be granted or withdrawn according to the colour of a person's politics. The University, certainly, should not place itself in the position of determining who shall be permitted to speak on campus.

Earlier this year the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Neville Wran, gave the A.A. Calwell Lecture. He was received with the utmost civility: we should extend the same courtesy to the R.G. Menzies lecturer.

It is beyond the power of this University to guarantee the safety of Mrs Thatcher — or of any other visitor — in the light of the threats that have been made overseas.

We must accept, then, that it is the State that must provide the level of protection that is clearly necessary in the present climate of CHOGM.

We might not like it. But we cannot avoid it. We cannot say: "Please stay away. We cannot accept the risks associated with your presence here. We cannot, within our own resources, guarantee you the right to be heard, so it would be better if you did not come."

The presence of large numbers of police in our University is a comparatively recent — and unwelcome — phenomenon. Some would say it is an unacceptably high price to pay for "freedom of speech" — particularly if that freedom is exercised only in the presence of an invited audience. They would argue that, in such circumstances, other freedoms — the freedom to hear, for one — stand in danger of curtailment.

It may be that we must accept some uneasy compromise here: the short-term sacrifice of one freedom for the sake of another.

Certainly, our traditional freedoms assume a new, somewhat strained, quality when they can only be assured by a display of force, however tolerant, restrained and understanding the agents of our protection may be.

As has often been pointed out in the past, universities are not 'sanctuaries', remote from the surrounding community and immune from the laws that govern other sections of society.

Presumably, the security arrangements for Mrs Thatcher while she is at Monash will be no different from those prevailing elsewhere. Clearly the CHOGM authorities are convinced that security must be maintained at the highest level — and common sense suggests that we should accept that assessment.

There seems to be ample evidence that, on this occasion, it will not be the usual brand of homegrown revolutionary, political opportunist, agitator-for-all-reasons or uncommitted thrill-seeker who will pose the greatest security worry. Nor even the 'hundreds and hundreds' of citizens that a misguided Federal minister called upon to demonstrate against the University. But they will all be elements in what could be a most unpleasant situation if they are joined — as CHOGM officials fear — by trained terrorists from other parts of the world.

I have been assured that the Monash ALP Club, for one, has resolved that it will neither promote nor condone any physical demonstration against Mrs Thatcher — though its members reserve the right to express their disapproval of her policies through the printed word.

That is a responsible attitude, and is to be welcomed. I would urge other groups and concerned individuals within the University to exercise similar restraint. It is not helpful — even if it were true — to say that the presence of police on campus is a "provocation". Nobody is "provoked" unless he or she wants to be.

It is not so long ago that the Prince of Wales was subjected to what was, in his own words, "a mild disturbance" at Monash. Mild it may have been — but the media, with deliberate misrepresentation and disgraceful exaggeration, seriously damaged the University's reputation in the world's eyes. No amount of correction or protest against that sort of treatment can repair the damage. (Even The Times of London published a highly inaccurate account — and failed to publish a retraction.)

Whether intentionally or not, an atmosphere of anxiety and apprehension has been allowed to build up in Melbourne in recent weeks.

At Monash, we should be doing all we can to "cool it". If trouble breaks out, we'll all be the losers.

— R.L. Martin
Vice-Chancellor
SAMU TO DISCUSS STRIKE CALL

The annual general meeting of The Staff Association of Monash University will be held in R3 at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23.

Principal topic for discussion will be the FAUSA call for a national one-day strike by academics in protest against the Deakin engineering closure.

LECTURE ON NOH DRAMA

The Japanese Studies Centre is sponsoring a public lecture, entitled “The World of Noh”, to be given by Professor Yokomichi Mario in R2 at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23.

TAXATION LECTURES

The third in the current series of lectures, ‘Recent Developments in Taxation’, will be given at the Law Institute at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29.

Dr P. Gerber, member of the Board of Review No. 3, will speak on “Options for contesting assessments and hearings at the Board of Review — a practical analysis”.

Further details: Janice Govan, Continuing Legal Education, ext. 3377.

FAREWELL TO PATRICIA

Patricia Mahon will be leaving the Grants Office at the end of this month to take up an appointment at VPSEC. Anyone wishing to attend a farewell lunch at the University Club on September 25 should ring Mrs M.L. Bottrell, ext 3055.

BLOOD BANK BACK

The Red Cross Blood Bank will back on campus on Thursday and Friday of this week, and again on the following Thursday and Friday, October 1-2. Bookings should be made at the Union Desk.

WAL FIFE AT FOOTSCRAY

The Minister for Education, Mr Wal Fife, will give the 1981 Beanland Lecture at Footscray Institute of Technology at 5 p.m. on Monday, September 28. He will speak on “Higher Education in the Next Triennium”. Further information: Mary Joe Gleeson, 688 4233.

$635,000 DIABETES GRANT

Associate Professor Paul Zimmet, of the Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, has been awarded a $635,000 grant over three years by the U.S. National Institute of Health for research on diabetes in the Pacific region.

He will search for genetic markers among the various ethnic groups in the region, where the incidence of “insulin-independent diabetes” ranges from near the highest in the world to probably less than that among western Caucasions.

Dr Zimmet operates a WHO Collaborative Centre for the Epidemiology of Diabetes mellitus. He collaborates with Professor A.W. Linnane and Dr Michael Gould, of the Monash Biochemistry department.

COMBINED CHORAL CONCERT

The choirs of Monash and Melbourne University Choral Societies will combine to perform a concert of contemporary works in Robert Blackwood Hall at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 25.

The program will include The Hymn of Jesus, by Gustav Holst (cond. Greg Hurworth, Monash); Quicksands, by Robert Kay (cond. Greg Hurworth); A Child of our Time, by Sir Michael Tippett (cond. Greg Hocking, Melbourne). Soloists will be Barbara Sambell (soprano), Clare Primrose (alto), Peter Anderson (tenor), Bryan Dowling (bass).

Tickets ($7.50 and $6, concession $4) available at Discurio and Robert Blackwood Hall.

MONASH-PLAYBOX PLAYREADINGS

The last in the 1981 series of free playreadings by actors from the Playbox Theatre will be Barry Dickins’s new play, A Couple of Broken Hearts. It will be presented in the Union Theatre at 1.10 p.m. on Thursday, September 24.

NEW CHANCELLOR FOR TASMANIA

Sir Peter Lloyd, former chairman of Cadbury Fry Pascall Australia Ltd., has been appointed Chancellor of the University of Tasmania. He will take up the appointment next year on the expiration of the term of the present Chancellor, Sir John Cameron.

Sir Peter, one of Tasmania’s best known businessmen, has been a director of a number of Australian companies and public corporations including the AMP Society, the Commonwealth Bank and Goliath Cement. An Oxford graduate, he has served on the Council of the University of Tasmania since 1957.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Listed below are requests and items of international news. If you would like further information, contact the Secretary, AVCC, PO Box 1142, Canberra City, ACT 2601; or write direct as indicated:

The Matsumae International Foundation, Japan, has provided information about its 1982 Fellowship program. The Fellowships are intended for people to do research at Masters or Doctorate level for short-term (3-6 months) or long-term (7-12 months), but extensions of time are available. Fields of study include all fields in the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences. Priority is given to the natural sciences, medicine and engineering. The Fellowships provide travel expenses, lump sum on arrival (300,000yen) and a stipend of between 200,000yen and 300,000yen each month. For further information correspond direct with the Matsumae International Foundation, 33F Kasumigaseki Building Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 100.

Hosei University, Japan, has provided information about its 1982 Hosei International Fund Foreign Scholars’ Fellowships. The Fellowships are intended for people to do research at Masters or Doctorate level for not less than 6 months and not more than 12 months. The Fellowship grant consists of a travelling subsidy of 300,000yen and a monthly living allowance of 170,000yen. The field of study is unrestricted provided that the subject of study is acceptable to Hosei University. For further information correspond direct with The International Center of Hosei University, 2-17-1 Fujimi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102. Closing date 31 October 1981.

Authorised by K.W. Bennett, Information Officer