



**DEPARTMENT OF  
FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS**

**NO**

**DATE**

M/45

26 February 1973

EMBARGOED for release until  
1800 hours Canberra time,  
Monday 26 February 1973.

AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH  
NORTH VIET-NAM

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today that Australia and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam had agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

The following is the text of the joint communique agreed between the two Governments:-

"Desiring to develop friendly relations between their two peoples, the Government of Australia and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam have decided upon reciprocal recognition from 26 February 1973 and the establishment of diplomatic relations between their two countries at the level of Ambassador.

This communique will be published simultaneously at Canberra and Hanoi on 26 February 1973.

For the Government of Australia	A.P. Renouf
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam	Vo Van Sung"

Mr Whitlam said that, with respect to South Viet-Nam, Australia continued to recognise the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam and did not intend to alter its diplomatic relations with that Government, or its representation in Saigon.

Mr Whitlam added that a small team of Australian officials would travel to Hanoi in the near future to examine administrative aspects of the establishment of an Embassy. "It is envisaged that the Embassy itself will be opened shortly thereafter and that a resident Australian Ambassador will be accredited later in the year", Mr Whitlam said.