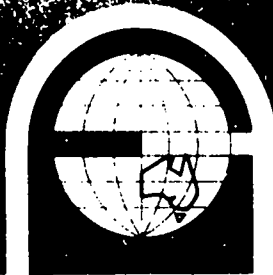


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AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO 30TH ECAFE CONFERENCE

The Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Whitlam, announced today that the Minister for Science and Minister Assisting the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Morrison, would lead the Australian Delegation to the 30th session of the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 27 March to 8 April.

Mr. Whitlam said that the annual sessions of ECAFE reviewed the economic and social situation in the region and the commission's activities throughout the previous year. The commission's future priorities and work programs were also decided at these sessions.

The session would provide a valuable opportunity for consideration by member countries of the fundamental economic and social problems of the area. It was envisaged that a new development strategy for ECAFE would be discussed at the session. In keeping with its policy of encouraging economic, social and political co-operation in the Asian and Pacific region, the Australian delegation would play a constructive role in this work.

Mr. Morrison would make the Australian statement in the session's general debate.

As in previous years, the delegation would include officers of the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Trade and the Treasury.