



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 379
22 November 1974

**INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION REPORT --
INDUSTRIAL TRACTORS**

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission in its report on Industrial Tractors. The report was released on 13 August 1974.

The Government's decision to implement the Commission's recommendations will mean that crawler tractors will continue to be dutiable at minimum rates while the General rate for other types of industrial tractors will increase from the present rate of 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

Mr Whitlam said that specified components of industrial tractors which previously were dutiable at rates different from those of the tractor unit itself will now attract the rate of duty of the tractor base.

Mr Whitlam said that for tractors forming the base for earthmoving equipment the tractor unit will be dutiable at the appropriate tractor rate, but the earthmoving equipment portion would be regarded for duty purposes as earthmoving equipment.

Licensing controls currently applying to imports of used, second hand and disposals equipment will continue.

Mr Whitlam also mentioned that the Commission had suggested that by-law admission be granted to certain four wheel drive tractors and tractor chassis fitted with engines, and that the existing by-law treatment be continued in respect of transmissions, axles, etc. for industrial tractors. Mr Whitlam added that as the Government had been advised, since receipt of the Commission's report, of the recent commencement of production of certain four wheel drive tractors in Australia, the by-law power criterion suggested by the Commission for these tractors could be varied.

A detailed statement of the Customs tariff changes arising from the Government's decision will be issued by the Minister for Customs and Excise when arrangements have been finalised to implement the new duty rates.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.