

AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE SIXTH WORLD FORESTRY  
CONGRESS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

The Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt, announced today that the Minister for National Development, Mr. David Fairbairn, who is Chairman of the Australian Forestry Council, would lead the Australian Delegation to the Sixth World Forestry Congress which will open in Madrid on 6th June, 1966. Mr. Fairbairn is to leave today, 29th May.

The Sixth World Forestry Congress, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, will be attended by the Ministers responsible for forestry, leading foresters, and representatives of the forest industries from all over the world. The Australian delegation will include at least one State Minister of Forests, senior officials from the Commonwealth State Forest Services and from the CSIRO Division of Forest Products, delegates representing the Australian forest industries, and university representatives.

The Sixth Congress, the theme of which is to be "The Role of Forestry in the Changing World Economy", will discuss subjects covering the whole field of forestry including all aspects of forest production and the use of forests for protection of water catchments, the control of soil erosion, wild life sanctuaries and recreational purposes. Australia is a substantial user of forest products and while expansion of afforestation is proceeding, we are currently importing forest products to a value of \$200M. per annum.

The Prime Minister also stated that whilst overseas Mr. Fairbairn will visit Great Britain to discuss other matters connected with his portfolio. In particular he will talk with the Minister of Power about offshore drilling and legislation in Britain concerned with oil and gas search. He will also have discussions about developments in the atomic energy field and about iron ore.

Mr. Fairbairn is expected to return to Australia about 11th July. During his absence, the Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr. Bury, will act as Minister for National Development.