

FOR PRESS



WORLD COURT JUDGMENT

Comment by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

I deplore and condemn the attacks reportedly made on Australia by named African spokesmen arising from the recent World Court judgment.

The fact that they were made while the United Nations Trusteeship Council was commending Australia for the general economic progress it has promoted in New Guinea underlines their lack of justification.

The criticisms against Sir Percy Spender are also deplorable and unwarranted. Sir Percy's long and distinguished career in law, politics and diplomacy has been marked by a progressive liberalism of mind and a warmth of humanity. He pioneered the Colombo Plan - at one time it was called the Spender Plan - under which billions of dollars have been provided for aid and technical assistance in Asia. The U.S.A. alone has contributed more than \$15 billion.

Whatever view is taken of Sir Percy's decision, his would have been an honest judgment made in good faith.

MELBOURNE
23rd July, 1966.