

FOR PRESS:

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EXPORT OF MERINO RAMS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

On 1st February 1970 the Government, acting on the recommendation of the Australian Wool Industry Conference, partially lifted the embargo on the export of merino rams.

The original embargo had been imposed by executive action and lifting it did not require legislation or Parliamentary sanction.

Subsequently the A. C. T. U. placed a ban on the export of these rams, and trade unions have refused to refuel a foreign aircraft chartered by the overseas buyers of the rams.

The Government cannot permit a situation in which Australian exporters are prevented from honouring their commitments in international trade.

To do so would be to allow industrial action, undertaken for political purposes, to interfere with overseas trade and damage Australia's good name in the eyes of the world.

This we will not permit.

The Government has therefore taken steps to ensure that the rams will be delivered to those who bought them in good faith. Air Force facilities are being made available to enable the aircraft concerned to be refuelled, load the rams, and depart for its destination.

CANBERRA
4 February 1971