



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT MADE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY

THE RT HON. WILLIAM McMAHON, M.P.

PAPUA/NEW GUINEA AND THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

25 November 1971.

In my recent statement to the House on my overseas visit, I mentioned the representations which I made in London on the problems for Papua/New Guinea arising from British entry to the European Economic Community.

I am now pleased to be able to inform the House about the successful conclusion of negotiations on behalf of Papua/New Guinea. The British Government has accepted an offer from the Six under which exports originating in Papua/New Guinea will be able to enter the United Kingdom until 1 January 1978, under the conditions which apply at the time of British accession to the Community. The offer also provides for review of these arrangements.

In making these arrangements for the Territory, the Community has stressed the exceptional features of the Papua/New Guinea position both from the point of view of its international status and from that of its economic development.

In accepting the offer by the Six, the British Government expressed its confidence that the Community would make reasonable arrangements for Papua/New Guinea in the context of any review.

I am sure the House will join with me in expressing appreciation for the special efforts made by the European Economic Community to recognise and provide for the unique needs of Papua/New Guinea.
