



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS:

PM. No 44/1972.

IMMIGRATION

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. William
McMahon, C.H., M.P.

The basis of the Government's immigration policy has been stated time and again. It is the one that will be adhered to in the administration of Government policy. It is the one that counts. I re-state it now.

First of all the aim of immigration policy remains the preservation in Australia of an essentially homogeneous society. That means a society that does not have permanent minorities of people with extremely different backgrounds that will resist integration in the long-term. We want one Australian people, one Australian nation.

This is no racist policy based on bigotry or prejudice. On the contrary it is a policy having the valid social objective of preventing the frictions and tensions which can come from permanent enclaves and a divided nation.

Of course such a policy has not prevented and will not prevent the entry of people of widely different backgrounds. But the policy does stipulate a necessity for prudent caution as to the volume and type of migration, with emphasis on the ability of individual migrants to become integrated or assimilated into our Australian society, within one generation at most.

In each of the last three years, over 9,000 people of non-European or partly non-European descent have been allowed to settle in Australia in pursuance of the policy I have stated. All the evidence points to their having been industrious and successful and to their having had no real problems of settlement. Obviously the policy and its administration have been successful.

PERTH,

4 May, 1972.