



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS:

PM's No 80/72

TEXTILE INDUSTRY DEPUTATION

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

The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister in Canberra today met a deputation from the Australian Textile Apparel and Related Industries Conference.

The deputation was led by Sir Robert Webster, Chairman of Directors of Bradmill Industries Ltd. and President of the Australian Textile Apparel and Related Industries Conference. Other members of the deputation included Mr Warren Adcock, representing the Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers; Mr John Brady, Chairman of Crestknit Ltd., representing the Australian Knitting Industries Council; and Mr A.J. Burgess, Director of the Textile Council of Australia.

The Deputation outlined some of the difficulties confronting the textile and apparel industries and there was a full and thorough discussion. The Ministers assured the delegation that the Government was looking closely and sympathetically at the problems of these industries.

The Prime Minister repeated the views he had expressed in Adelaide last month when he emphasised the Government's recognition of the important place occupied by manufacturing industries in the Australian economy. The Prime Minister referred again to the fact that the Government was negotiating for voluntary restraint arrangements with low cost overseas countries in order to ensure protection for Australian manufacturers of textiles and apparel. The Prime Minister also commended the efforts of Sir Robert Webster and the industry itself in recent negotiations to bring about voluntary restraints by countries exporting to Australia.

24 August 1972
CANBERRA