



# DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NO

DATE

M/25

23 January 1973

## AUSTRALIAN RATIFICATION OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATIES

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr E.G. Whitlam, announced today that arrangements had been made for Australia to ratify two Treaties relating to the control of nuclear weapons - the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Seabed Arms Control Treaty.

Mr Whitlam said that instruments of ratification were being deposited today by Australian representatives in the three depository capitals, London, Washington and Moscow.

"This action fulfills a pledge I gave on behalf of the Government in my first week in office," Mr Whitlam said.

"It reflects the Government's strong and unequivocal support for efforts to check the spread of nuclear weapons, and for the principles of arms control contained in the two Treaties."

Mr Whitlam said that to fulfill the principal requirement of ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Australia was already negotiating with the International Atomic Energy Agency for a Safeguards Agreement, which would provide practical arrangements to prevent the non-peaceful use of nuclear material.