



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

NO

M/61

DATE

27 March 1973

FOOD AID FOR BANGLADESH

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr E.G. Whitlam, announced today that Australia would give Bangladesh a gift of 12,600 metric tons of wheat.

Mr Whitlam said the gift was in response to appeals by the Bangladesh Government and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for assistance in supplying food grains to Bangladesh.

The gift, valued at \$940,000, augments the 54,000 metric tons of wheat which Australia shipped to Bangladesh during 1972 and brings the value of Australian gift wheat to Bangladesh during the current financial year to almost \$5 million.

Australia will pay the freight costs of the gift.