



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today that Australia would be represented at an International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa to be held in Oslo from 9 to 14 April.

Mr John Petherbridge, Australian Ambassador to Sweden, Norway and Finland and Mr J. Trotter, Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Bonn, will attend the Conference which is being organised by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity.

Mr Whitlam said that the purpose of the Conference would be to formulate a constructive program of peaceful action to facilitate and hasten the process of decolonization and the elimination of apartheid.

Participants at the meeting would seek ways and means by which to obtain the largest possible support from the international community towards finding a solution to the present

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situation in southern Africa.

Mr Whitlam said that emphasis was expected to be laid on an assessment of the future needs and requirements in the various fields of humanitarian assistance to the people suffering as a result of colonialism and apartheid.

The Conference would also discuss possible future diplomatic, political and legal action that might be taken by the United Nations, governments, non-governmental organizations and liberation movements.