



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 89

8 May 1973

STRATEGIC EXPORT CONTROLS

The Government has taken a decision on a report by Departments on the question of strategic export controls over commercial trade.

It has been decided that Australia will no longer maintain on commercial trade with the U.S.S.R., Eastern Europe, China, North Korea, North Viet-Nam and Cuba, restraints different from the restraints on commercial trade maintained on any other country.

The controls which have been maintained by Australia have not proved, in recent years, to have much relevance to our production and it has therefore been decided to treat trade with all countries on a similar basis.

It is well known that controls by other western countries have been progressively reduced and the United States and European countries are selling highly sophisticated material to the communist countries.

We have notified a number of our closest friends of this decision and assured them that Australia will not be a means towards circumventing any controls which they may maintain over their own production.

This decision has no bearing on the controls which are maintained by Australia over the export of arms and war-like stores and atomic energy material.

The embargo on trade with North Viet-Nam is being removed and we consider this is appropriate in view of the establishment of relations with that country.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.