



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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AUSTRALIAN APPLICATION TO INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE

Australia has filed an application in the International Court of Justice at The Hague requesting interim measures to restrain France from further atmospheric nuclear tests in the Pacific.

This was confirmed today by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam.

The application was lodged with the Registrar of the Court late yesterday by the Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Dr Thomson, and the Australian agent for the Court proceedings, Mr Brazil.

Shortly before the documents were filed the Australian Ambassador to France, Mr Renouf, had delivered to the French Foreign Ministry a letter from Mr Whitlam to the French Foreign Minister, Mr Jobert, informing him of Australia's decision to resort to the Court.

Mr Whitlam also announced that the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, Sir Garfield Barwick, had been appointed

as an ad hoc judge for the hearing of the case. This has been done in consultation with the Government of New Zealand. An applicant party to proceedings was entitled to nominate a judge additional to the 15 elected judges of the Court.

Sir Garfield planned to leave Sydney on Saturday, 12 May for The Hague, Mr Whitlam added.

Mr Whitlam said that the talks which concluded last night in Canberra between French and Australian scientists had not changed the Australian Government's views regarding the hazards to health created by the French tests in the Pacific.

The talks, held at the Australian Academy of Science, ended with the Australian and French teams of scientists agreeing to report separately to their respective governments. Mr Whitlam expressed his thanks to Sir Rutherford Robertson and to Professor Gauvenet, the respective leaders of the scientific teams, for the scientists' joint study of the radiation hazard problem.