



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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SOLIDARITY WITH THE COLONIAL PEOPLES OF AFRICA

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, said today that the Australian people and Government supported the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and Portuguese territories in Africa.

In a statement on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day (today, 25 May), Mr Whitlam said that this support was clearly manifested in the actions of the present Government. Africa Liberation Day marks the beginning of the inaugural Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of South Africa and Guinea (BISSAU) Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Equal Rights.

The United Nations General Assembly, at its 27th session in 1972, instituted the Week of Solidarity which will be held annually.

Mr Whitlam said that the present Government's actions of support had included changes in Australia's voting on African issues at the 27th session of the United Nations General Assembly, financial support of the United Nations funds established to

further the educational and other aspirations of the peoples of Southern Africa, wholehearted co-operation with the efforts of the international community to bring to an end the illegal Smith regime in Zimbabwe through sanctions and other measures, and the exclusion from Australia of South African sporting teams selected on a racial basis.

The Prime Minister recalled that Africa Liberation Day this year marked the tenth anniversary of the signing in Addis Ababa of the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity. The O.A.U. had resolved on 25 May 1963 that that day would be observed as Africa Liberation Day.

Mr Whitlam said he had already conveyed to the Organisation the congratulations and good wishes of the Government and people of Australia on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the O.A.U.