



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today that Australia and the Republic of Venezuela had agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassador.

Mr Whitlam said that this would be made formal by an exchange of notes between the Australian Ambassador to the United States, Sir James Plimsoll, and his Venezuelan counterpart.

Mr Whitlam said that the establishment of diplomatic relations would lead to closer co-operation between the two countries in accordance with the spirit and principles of the United Nations.