

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER

NUCLEAR FALL-OUT ON AUSTRALIA

The Acting Prime Minister Mr Barnard announced today that the first fall-out in Australia from this year's French nuclear testing programme had been detected at the Laverton Air Filter Sampling Station near Melbourne. Mr Barnard said that the detection of fall-out verified that recent French nuclear testing was a clear breach of the ruling of the world Court.

The fall-out is currently at low levels of concentration detectable only by the more sensitive devices.

Samples from five other air sampling stations are now being checked to see how widely the fall-out has been distributed.

The people of Australia could be assured that the experts concerned with the Australian monitoring programme are watching fall-out levels closely and that the Government would be kept fully informed.

Fall-out data as it becomes available is being passed to the Australian Ionising Radiation Advisory Council, which will advise the Government concerning the effects of fall-out on the Australian population.

Mr Barnard said the Government would issue prompt advice if it believed that any special dietary measures should be taken against the effects of fall-out in milk.

Unless such advice is given, consumption of fresh milk should not be discontinued.