



DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

NO
M/137

DATE
25 September 1973

AUSTRALIA TO OBSERVE ANDEAN PACT

File

The Special Minister of State, Senator Willesee, announced today that Australia had been accorded observer status to the Andean Pact organisation. Senator Willesee said that the Pact, whose members were Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, was an important sub-regional grouping, whose activities were of considerable interest to Australia. Pact members were concentrating on increasing economic co-operation and integration for their national and regional economic benefit. Observer status would enable Australia to keep in close touch with the organisation's headquarters in Lima.

In accordance with the practice of the Pact organisation, the Australian Ambassador to Peru, Mr H.A. Dunn, has been designated as the Australian observer. Mr Dunn is also Australian Ambassador to Argentina and to Uruguay.

Senator Willesee said that this move reflected the Government's desire to strengthen Australia's relations with Latin American countries. He recalled that Australia sent an observer to the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States last April.