



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 154

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, sent the following telegram to Mr Somare to mark his country's transition to self-government.

"Tomorrow 1 December 1973 marks an historic day in the development of Papua New Guinea when it takes its rightful place as a self-governing country.

On behalf of the Government and all Australians I send you, your Government and the people of Papua New Guinea our best wishes for your future national development and prosperity.

We look forward to the continuance of friendly relations and close co-operation between our two countries as you set out to build a new nation."

CANBERRA. A.C.T.