



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 162

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NEW DATA SYSTEM

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, announced today the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the development of a new integrated statistical information system to operate among departments concerned with the fields of social, welfare and economic programs.

The committee will report on the general principles and administrative arrangements that would be necessary for the operation of such a system.

It will report by 30 March next year.

Mr. Whitlam said to implement the Government's program a greater knowledge of statistics involved in these key areas was necessary. Greater co-ordination among departments was also needed.

The new more uniform and up-dated system would also be of great assistance to private business and industry. A more efficient and better organised data gathering system was necessary to achieve these aims. Because the committee had been asked to advise on the principles and administrative arrangements of a new system, its members were chosen for their knowledge of the Government's policies, experience in public administration and their technical expertise, Mr. Whitlam said.

The members of the committee are:

Professor L.F. Crisp
Chairman

Mr. B. Brogan,
Consultant to the Department of the Prime Minister
and Cabinet

Mr. K.L. Brown,
President of the Printing and Allied Trades Employers
Federation

Mr. R. Jolly,
Australian Council of Trade Unions

Professor C.F. Wallace,
Department of Information Science, Monash University

A summary statement of the general considerations which have led the Government to review its information needs in related areas of social and economic policy has been prepared for the information and guidance of the committee. A copy is attached.

The Prime Minister said that, although it was not intended that the committee should conduct a public inquiry, it would receive written submissions until 15 February 1974. The submissions should be forwarded to the committee's chairman, Professor L.F. Crisp, through the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department. Since the committee's report will be concerned with the general principles and administrative arrangements that would enable close integration of the Government's data systems, submissions should be limited to these matters, Mr. Whitlam said.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.