



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 194

1 March 1974

PRODUCTION OF SUPERPHOSPHATE REFERRED TO INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

As a result of a reference sent to the Industries Assistance Commission by the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, today, the Commission will examine the need for the continuation of the tariff on superphosphate.

Mr. Whitlam has asked the Commission to inquire into and report on whether assistance currently accorded the production of superphosphate in Australia should be continued and, if so, the nature and extent of such assistance.

Mr. Whitlam emphasised that the reference to the Commission was limited to the question of assistance for Australian production and was not concerned with the question of a bounty for users of superphosphate.

Mr. Whitlam said that at present imports of superphosphate into Australia attract a duty of just under 17 per cent under the General Tariff and just under 6 per cent from preferential sources. The last full report on the protective requirements of this industry was that from the Tariff Board in December 1929, although it was included in the Board's 1972 report on General Rates of Duty which dealt with preferences. Mr. Whitlam said that it is appropriate for the Commission to review the assistance available to this manufacturing industry. It is also relevant that at present the Commission is inquiring into the protective needs of the industry producing nitrogenous fertilisers.

The reference to the Commission on superphosphate production covers items 31.03.100 and 31.05.110 to the First Schedule of the Customs Tariff 1966-1973.

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