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PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 275

25 June 1974

BRITISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST

The Australian Government has repeatedly made clear its opposition to nuclear weapons testing by any country in any environment. In particular the Government has given its strong support to resolutions in the United Nations directed against nuclear weapons testing which is known to have been conducted systematically over the years by the United States and the Soviet Union. Very recently it has protested against French and Chinese nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere. It has expressed its concern to the Indian Government about its recent underground test.

The platform of the Australian Labor Party expressly opposes the development, proliferation, possession and use of nuclear weapons.

The Australian Government is disappointed to learn therefore that the British Government has conducted a nuclear weapons test underground in the United States, after a long interval of nine years. This has occurred at a time when other recent developments have justifiably increased apprehension in the international community about the nuclear arms race.

The Australian Government earnestly hopes that the forthcoming Summit talks between the Soviet Union and the United States will make real progress towards the ultimate objective of a complete ban on all nuclear weapons testing.

CANBERRA. A.C.T