



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 280

2 July 1974

INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION REPORT - PAPER

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission in its report on paper.

The Government's decision to implement the Commission's recommendations will mean that a general rate of duty of 20 percent will apply to uncoated and coated printing and writing papers which represents a slight increase in the level of protection for uncoated papers compared with the existing specific General rate of \$48.225 per tonne and a slight decrease from the existing General rate of 22½% for coated papers. The Commission also recommended that wrapping papers be dutiable at minimum rates.

With the effective rate of protection being about the same as the recommended nominal rate of 20%, the industry is low cost by Australian standards.

Mr Whitlam said that details of the customs tariff changes arising from the Government's decision will be announced when administrative arrangements to implement them have been finalised.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.