



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT No. 284

5 JULY 1974

**TARIFF BOARD REPORTS - PROPYLENE OXIDE DERIVATIVES
- FILM PROCESSING INDUSTRY, ADVERTISING FILM,
(VALUE FOR DUTY)**

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, announced today that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Tariff Board in its reports on propylene oxide derivatives and film processing industry, advertising film (value for duty).

With regard to propylene oxide derivatives Mr. Whitlam said the Government's decision to implement the Board's recommendations will mean that a General rate of duty of 20% will apply to the principal products covered by the report, polyols (used in the manufacture of polyurethane foam) and glycols (primarily used in the production of polyester resins and surface coatings). Presently these goods are dutiable at minimum rates. Mr. Whitlam said the Government noted the Board's misgivings as to whether the local manufacture of these goods warranted assistance but accepted the Board's judgement on the level of protection for the local industry pending a review of the chemical industry as a whole in 1975.

There will be no change in the duties currently applying to the other goods covered by the report except for a minor variation in respect of some chemically pure surface active agents and some goods of New Zealand origin.

The decision in respect of the film processing report will mean that minimum rates of duty will apply to exposed cinematograph film; a General rate of 35% will apply to graphic arts film (negative and positive) and minimum rates of duty will apply to other goods. Provision will also be made for by-law admission of certain exposed film.

A detailed statement of the Customs tariff changes involved arising from the Government's decision will be issued by the Minister for Customs and Excise when arrangements have been finalised to implement the new duty rates.

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