



# PRIME MINISTER

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS CONSULTANT

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam announced today the appointment of the Honourable A.J. Grassby as Special Consultant to the Australian Government on Community Relations.

Mr Whitlam said that the appointment was to lay the foundations for legislative and administrative action to ensure the abolition of all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour or creed in Australia and to ensure a continuing program to enable the Australian community as a whole to benefit from the rich cultural and linguistic heritage which Australia has acquired after 25 years of mass migration. Above all the appointment is the first step of new initiatives to ensure that the hopes and aspirations of the 3 million people who have settled in Australia since World War II have the fullest opportunities for realisation.

The Australian Parliament has responsibility to legislate with respect to aborigines, migrants and international treaties and obligations.

Australia has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which was adopted by the United Nations in December 1965 and which came into force in January 1969.

This convention has already been ratified by 78 countries, including Britain, Canada and New Zealand.

Earlier this year Australian Attorney-General (Senator Murphy) introduced legislation which would have enabled Australia to implement the convention.

This legislation lapsed when the old Parliament was dissolved and Mr Whitlam said that Mr Grassby would also advise on the form in which the legislation would be introduced in the new Parliament.

Mr Whitlam said that Mr Grassby would be appointed commissioner under the legislation when it was passed by Parliament.

In the meantime he will act as adviser to the Australian Government on matters of community relations affecting migrants and other ethnic groups in Australia.