



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

NO

DATE

M/96

8 July 1974

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, in Canberra on 8 July:

"The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, said today that the Australian Government had reason to believe that the French Government had exploded today another nuclear device in the atmosphere in the Pacific.

The Prime Minister said he wished to reiterate that, as he had said on 17 June, this further action of the French Government was a matter of deep concern to the Australian Government and that the feelings of the Australian Government and people against these tests had not changed. Mr Whitlam said that his Government had protested by formal note to the French Government as recently as 18 June 1974 concerning the conduct of a further test in the Pacific."