



# PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 348

18 October 1974

## RELEASE OF TARIFF BOARD REPORT - PHOTOGRAPHIC AND CINEMATOGPAPHIC APPARATUS

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, today released the Tariff Board's report on Photographic and Cinematographic Apparatus.

The report covers a wide range of apparatus including process cameras and enlargers and reducers suitable for use as cameras but not including other cameras, cinematographic projectors or slide viewers.

The Prime Minister recalled that he had previously announced the Government's acceptance of the Board's report, but because changes in tariff rates had implications for international commitments the Government would not release its decision or the report pending the completion of necessary GATT negotiations with overseas countries. These negotiations have now been concluded.

Mr. Whitlam said that in accordance with a decision taken by the Government in September last year, where it accepted a recommendation of the Tariff Board in a report received prior to 19 July 1973, the duties approved for inclusion in the Customs Tariff would, subject to international commitments, be those recommended by the Board less 25 per cent. Consequently a rate of 15 per cent will apply to the majority of goods of types made in Australia. Currently the process cameras, the enlargers and the reducers are free of duty while many other goods are subject to protective duties.

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.