



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 351

23 October 1974

STATISTICAL SURVEY OF IMPORTS

The Prime Minister announced today that the Australian Bureau of Statistics would begin immediately to introduce a monthly survey of importers which would allow the prediction of large, short-term fluctuations of imports in total and for selected sensitive commodities.

"Information of future imports", he said, "particularly on significant changes in their trend, is needed by the Australian Government so that it can assess the potential effects of such changes on our balance of payments and on the level of employment in Australian manufacturing industries".

Mr. Whitlam said that the Government was concerned to broaden the information base upon which its decisions were taken but in doing so was concerned to avoid unnecessary cost and burdening of Australian private enterprise. The system now being introduced met these criteria.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.