



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 360

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AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs announced that the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Wriedt would be leaving Australia for Rome during the week-end to lead the thirteen member Australian Delegation to the World Food Conference. (5-16 November). The Deputy Leader of the Australian Delegation will be Mr R.S. Swift, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The delegation will comprise Australia's Ambassador to Italy, His Excellency Mr J.E. Ryan, the Research Adviser to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr David Thomas, and Senior officers from the Departments of Agriculture, Overseas Trade, Treasury and Foreign Affairs. The delegation will be accompanied by an adviser, Mr Allan Smith, National Director of the Australian Freedom From Hunger Campaign.

The Conference is being convened in order to devise measures for dealing with the world's present food crisis, which, although it had been developing over a long period, suddenly emerged in dramatic form in 1972 when, as a result of adverse weather conditions, world food output declined.

The Conference's work will be divided into three main areas: measures to increase agricultural production in developing countries; world food security; and world food trade. Australia intends taking an active role in the Conference's discussions in these three areas and the delegation has accordingly been briefed to adopt a positive and constructive approach towards proposals for programs and objectives which will contribute to reducing the food gap in developing countries.

CANBERRA.. A.C.T..