



## PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 392  
3 December 1974

### TEXTILES AUTHORITY REPORT - YARNS, KNITTED FABRICS AND TOWELLING

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The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that, following consideration of a report by the Textiles Authority within the Industries Assistance Commission, the Government had decided to introduce tariff quotas on imported acrylic apparel yarns, knitted or crocheted fabrics of man-made fibres and terry towels. Mr Whitlam stated that the Textiles Authority had found that imports in these areas were causing market disruption. Mr Whitlam also released the Authority's report and an exchange of correspondence between the Standing Interdepartmental Committee on Assistance to Industries and the Commission.

Mr Whitlam said that the Government did not consider it appropriate to attempt to negotiate voluntary restraints on the basis recommended by the Authority. Therefore the Government had decided to accept the Authority's alternative recommendation that other means such as tariff quotas be used to achieve a similar measure of assistance to the domestic industry. Mr Whitlam said that the tariff quotas which were being introduced consistently with Australia's rights and obligations under the GATT would remain in effect for the next 12 months and that this form of assistance would be reviewed within that period.

Mr Whitlam said that he would be sending a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission for inquiry and report on the long-term assistance requirements of the sectors of the Australian industry concerned.

Mr Whitlam added that tariff quotas would apply to all imports of the products concerned cleared for home consumption after the date of this announcement. The policy aspects of the administration of the tariff quotas will be the responsibility of the Minister for Manufacturing Industry who will announce detailed arrangements in the near future. Copies of the Textiles Authority's report and related correspondence are now available.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.