



# PRIME MINISTER

## PRESS STATEMENT

15 January 1975

### SIGNING OF SCIENCE AGREEMENT WITH U.S.S.R.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, and Soviet Prime Minister, Mr. Kosygin, today signed in Moscow an agreement between the Australian and USSR Governments for scientific and technical cooperation. The agreement will facilitate increased cooperation in both the natural and social sciences.

In the first instance five fields are to be given priority for cooperation. They are: earth sciences, plant industry, radioastronomy, etomology and textile technology. Small groups of experts in these fields will exchange visits so that long-term programs for cooperation can be prepared.

The first of these visits has been made by an Australian group of earth scientists which toured the USSR in December 1974, for discussions with their Soviet counterparts. Soviet groups in textile technology and radioastronomy will visit Australia in February for talks with Australian scientists and inspections of laboratories. Other exchanges will take place in subsequent months.

As a result of the prior negotiation of the agreement there has already been a strengthening of scientific cooperation between Australia and the USSR in some of the priority areas. It is hoped that the agreement will benefit scientific development in both countries, and thereby contribute to furthering bilateral relations between Australia and the USSR.

MOSCOW