



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 470
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AUSTRALIAN BEEF EXPORTS WITH JAPAN

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, announced today that the Japanese Government had allocated an import quota of 2,400 tonnes of beef for the Okinawa market.

Mr. Whitlam said the Japanese Government had made a simultaneous announcement of its decision in Tokyo this afternoon.

Commenting on the reopening of the Japanese beef market Mr. Whitlam said: "The amount is not significant compared with our peak exports to Japan of 115,000 tonnes in 1974.

"What is welcome is the reaffirmation I have received from the Japanese Government that they will be approaching the question of further meat imports in a forward looking constructive matter."

Mr. Whitlam said the Australian Government expected that Australia would get at least its traditional share of the new beef quota.

The Prime Minister said that the Australian Government would continue to make strenuous efforts to persuade the Japanese Government to purchase more Australian meat.

He recalled that during the visit to Australia of the then Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Tanaka, in November, he took every opportunity both publicly and in private, to emphasise the plight of the Australian beef producers. His colleague, the Minister for Agriculture, made similar strong representations to senior Japanese ministers when he was in Tokyo in October last year.

"We will continue to maintain our efforts and we now have greater reason to hope for more substantial development as the Japanese situation further improves," the Prime Minister concluded.

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