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AUSTRALIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSISTANCE  
AGENCY



75/9

MEDIA RELEASE

FOOD AID FOR ETHIOPIA

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, announced today that the Australian Government is giving an additional \$400,000 of food aid to Ethiopia.

Mr Whitlam said that this aid was being given because of the continuing need of the Ethiopian authorities for international assistance in the procurement and distribution of food to rural areas. Ethiopia is also developing food security buffer stocks in accordance with an FAO national food security plan prepared in November 1974 at the request of the Government of Ethiopia.

The Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia, (Mr W.P.J. Handmer), resident in Nairobi, had recently visited that country and had reported on food requirements there. Details of the food aid to be financed by or supplied from Australia are being discussed with Ethiopian authorities.

Mr Whitlam recalled that Australia gave 4030 tonnes of wheat to Ethiopia in 1974, and had airfreighted 12 tonnes of protein-enriched milk biscuits previously, for a total cost of \$830,000.

Mr Whitlam added that the Ambassador had also visited Somalia and consideration was being given to the provision of food aid to that country, which has similarly been seriously affected by drought.

Canberra

30 March 1975