



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO 480
3 April 1975

RETURN OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN STUDENTS

The Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam said today that students from Vietnam and Cambodia studying in Australia would be allowed to defer their return home.

Sponsored overseas students are normally required to return to their homelands when they have completed their studies in Australia, but they have in the past been permitted to remain temporarily for additional studies when circumstances in their own countries would make it dangerous to return.

Mr Whitlam added that he hoped that students from Vietnam and Cambodia would be able to go back to their homelands and make their contribution to the reconstruction of their countries when peace is restored.

At the present time, there are 445 Vietnamese students in Australia, including approximately 75 private students. There are 75 students from Cambodia, including 18 private students. They are in Australian schools, colleges and universities or undertaking special courses of study or training.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.