

PRIME MINISTER

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246

The Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, today announced that, following the passage of the Appropriation Bills, the Administrative Arrangements Order had been amended to return responsibility for the Government's activities in relation to the procurement, purchase and disposal of goods from the Department of Manufacturing Industry to the Department of Administrative Services.

The Prime Minister indicated that these functions had been temporarily transferred to the Department of Manufacturing Industry on 30 October 1975 to ensure that the staff engaged on them could be paid at least until the end of the Supply period from appropriations originally allocated for them.

Mr Fraser pointed out that in a press statement on 30 October 1975 his predecessor had made it clear that the transfer then made was a temporary administrative measure taken because of the delay in the passage of the Appropriation Bills. In transferring the functions and staff back to the Department of Administrative Services the Government was simply carrying out the announced intentions of the previous Government.

CANBERRA

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