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TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS

In a joint statement the Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, and the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr M.J.R. MacKellar, said today that despite intended Budget economies and restrictions on the Public Service, the Government will proceed with the training and employment of bilingual interpreters/translators in 1976.

The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs will provide funds for the continuation of specialised courses for the training of interpreters/translators at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, the Institute of Languages in the University of New South Wales and the Canberra College of Advanced Education.

The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (Mr Street) has been asked to investigate the possibility of assisting under the NEAT scheme students who enrol in courses this year for training as interpreters/translators. The Minister has also been asked to ensure that every effort is made to assist people who have successfully completed courses to obtain appropriate employment.

The Public Service Board has been urgently asked to review designations and work levels applying to interpreters/translators in the Public Service. The Board's review will

encompass action which can be taken by Departments as well as by the Board, to facilitate employment of persons who have completed courses and are qualified for employment as interpreters/translators.
