



F76/45

PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

FEBRUARY 29, 1976

THE IRAQI INVESTIGATION

As a result of inconsistencies in statements about the purpose of the visit made by two Iraqis who came to Australia on 8 December and in view of the allegations that large sums of money were brought into Australia, I announced in Parliament that inquiries had been instituted.

These inquiries are being conducted by the Commonwealth Police.

No directions have been given to the police about the manner in which they are to conduct their inquiries which I am advised are proceeding in a normal fashion at the discretion of the investigating officers.

I am advised that the decision to call in the diaries was the decision of the police.

I have had no reports from the police since they began their inquiries. I have not seen the diaries kept by the police escort squad assigned to Mr Whitlam. Nor have I asked for them.

When the inquiry is complete a report will go to the law officers who will report to me.

If Mr Whitlam wishes to refresh his memory about certain of his movements I would have no objection to his being shown the records kept by the police escort squad. That is a matter he should take up with the police. I would certainly not stand in the way of his being shown these records.