



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

14th April, 1976.

There have been consultations today involving myself, Mr. Hawke and Mr. Egerton from the A.C.T.U. and Mr. Polites of the National Employers Policy Committee and with reference to representatives of the Wool Brokers and the Storemen and Packers Union. The Government and those parties directly involved in the consultations would hope that a resolution of the existing situation in the wool industry could be expedited along the following lines:

1. It is accepted as arguable whether the men have been stood down or are on strike.
2. The Wool Brokers have withdrawn the stand down notices and work is available on existing award conditions.
3. Continuity of employment will be preserved for all those who resume work.
4. Relevant termination conditions will be applicable where it is determined that men have been retrenched and do not wish to resume their previous employment.
5. There is acceptance of the scope for negotiation on the question of sick leave and rest pauses in the industry.
6. It is accepted also that the dispute over bale weights will proceed within the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission with an independent report being prepared by Dr. Ferguson of the University of Sydney.
7. It is noted that the unions will subsequently be seeking a conference with the dumping companies on their container claims.
8. It is noted that the wages claim of \$9.10 per week is to be the subject of a hearing before Mr. Commissioner Heagney next week.
9. The Government is prepared to assist the parties in any way including participation in any discussions which might be considered appropriate.

10. To this end the Government requests the parties to confer as soon as possible on the basis of these points with a view to an early resumption of work and I have asked the President of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission Mr. Justice Moore to chair such a conference. It will be held at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow. It would be open to any party to discuss any of the points covered above and the Government would have no objection to such discussions.

---0o0---