



PRIME MINISTER

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COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD

The Government has established a high-level Committee to examine the wide ranges of issues involved in Australia's relations with the developing countries of the Third World and to identify policy options for Australia's approach to this group of states in the future.

The Prime Minister said the decision reflected the Government's awareness that the concerted approach of Third World developing countries to global issues - such as food, energy and the conditions for international economic growth - represented an increasingly important factor in international relations.

The issues raised critical political, economic and moral questions. A growing interdependence between states, an increasing urgency attaching to the global problems and the need for co-operative solutions compelled attention to the character of Australia's relationship with the Third World.

Australia had always paid close attention to its bilateral relations with Third World countries and to the particular issues involving them. But the Government believed that recent developments required a more co-ordinated and comprehensive approach - one which recognised the existence of the Third World as a collective entity and took full account of the political significance and complexity of many of the issues which concerned it.

The membership of the Committee, which would be headed by Professor Owen Harries, of the University of New South Wales, had been selected to reflect the breadth of the Australian interests, both within government and in the community generally, which were involved in our relations with the Third World.

The group of eminent people who had agreed to serve on the Committee were:

Associate Professor Owen Harries, of the School of Political Science, University of New South Wales (Chairman)

Mr E.K. Fisk, Professorial Fellow, Department of Economics, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra

Mr Peter Nolan, Secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Melbourne

Dr Brian Scott, Group Managing Director, W.D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd., Management Consultants, Sydney

Mr J.A. Uhrig, Managing Director, Simpson Pope Ltd., Adelaide

Mr J.T. Smith, of Canberra, formerly Minister (Commercial), Australian Embassy, Washington

Mr J.D. Moore, First Assistant Secretary, Overseas Economic Relations Division, Department of the Treasury, Canberra

Mr Neil McInnes, Deputy Director-General (Economic and Financial), Office of National Assessments, Canberra

Mr A.R. Parsons, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra

The Committee would consult widely among the public, government departments and agencies, academic bodies and other interested organisations. The Government hoped that the Committee would report to it by the end of 1978.