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PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

9 DECEMBER, 1978

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Today, 10 December, marks the 30th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is appropriate to affirm that Australia remains committed to the promotion and protection of fundamental human standards. The anniversary comes at a time when there is a growing international recognition of the importance of human rights.

It is essential that Australia be seen as a firm upholder of human rights. It is also in Australia's interests that all communities and countries join in a commitment to the basic principles and standards as set out in the Declaration.

The Declaration was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948. For thirty years it has been a basic document promoting the aspirations of all nations and all peoples concerned with fundamental rights and freedoms. The Declaration is one of the most significant and enlightened achievements of the United Nations.

As was announced in July the Commonwealth, in association with the States and the Northern Territory, will be embarking on a program designed to make available to the community at large, information on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its significance to Australia.

The program is at an advanced stage of preparation and it is expected that discussion kits for schools and ethnic and aboriginal organisations will be available early next year. Explanations of Australia's Racial Discrimination Act, in English and other ethnic and Aboriginal languages, will also be distributed.