



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

12 JULY, 1979

WHALING

The Prime Minister today welcomed the decision of the International Whaling Commission in London to declare a world-wide moratorium on whaling by factory ships.

The only species not included in the moratorium is the small and populous Minke Whale.

Australia will continue to press for the expansion of the moratorium to cover all species and for its long-term continuation.

Australia has also taken an initiative to have the Commission itself examine the consequences of a long-term ban on whaling. I understand that Australia's motions calling for a report on the steps necessary to institute a world-wide ban, including the period required to introduce such a ban and report on the economic aspects of commercial whaling have been accepted. These reports should be available for the 32nd Annual Meeting of the IWC.

Australia will also be pressing for a sanctuary in the Indian Ocean for all species of whales to ensure their protection.

Private whaling by nations not members of the IWC compromises the ability of the IWC to manage whale stocks. Australia regards the activities of these nations very seriously and we intend to exert all our influence in an effort to persuade them to accept the Commission's rules.

The Australian Delegation to the IWC is led by Professor Ovington - Director Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Dr Radwayallen, Dr Kirkwood, Mr Letts and Mrs Joy Lee are the other members.