



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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PROFESSOR ARNDT TO CHAIR COMMONWEALTH GROUP OF EXPERTS

The Prime Minister announced today that a distinguished academic economist from the Australian National University, Professor H. W. Arndt, is to chair a Commonwealth group of experts to make a comprehensive study of factors restraining growth within world economies.

The Prime Minister recalled that Commonwealth Heads of Government at their recent meeting in Lusaka had recognised that a continuation of slow growth in the global economy would further damage the prospects of increasing living standards in both developed and developing countries, and could have adverse effects on their political and social structures. They had agreed to an Australian proposal that there would be considerable advantage in a study by independent Commonwealth experts that focusses on the constraints on economic growth and structural change in developed and developing nations, and identifies specific measures necessary to reduce these constraints. The Group which will comprise about 10 independent Commonwealth experts is to report in time to assist Commonwealth governments in their preparation for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1980.

In welcoming Professor Arndt's appointment as Chairman of this Group the Prime Minister said that Professor Arndt, who is currently Professor of Economics in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the A.N.U. and formerly Dean of the Faculty of Economics, has been an adviser to many international bodies and has written widely on economic matters.

The earlier part of Professor Arndt's career had been devoted to a study of macro-economics. In the last fifteen years he has been concerned with the problems of economic development, particularly in Indonesia, and with the linkage of the problems of developed and developing countries.

Professor Arndt's most recent publication is The Rise and Fall of Economic Growth: A Study in Contemporary Thought. In the early 1960's Professor Arndt conducted a study on the economic growth in Europe for the United Nations and in the early 1970's he contributed to the first OECD economic survey of Australia.