



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The Government today considered a report from the Foreign Minister concerning the latest events in Iran and more specifically the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister have already condemned the invasion of Afghanistan as totally without justification; as a violation of everything the United Nations stands for; and as a mode of behaviour which will make normal relationships between nations totally impossible.

Soviet explanations of the invasion have been rejected by the Government.

The Government, along with many others, is conscious that its actions and decisions must be directed to the securing of circumstances where this kind of behaviour will not be repeated.

The Russians have invaded Afghanistan. Now, collectively, the world needs to demonstrate that the price of that invasion is much higher than the Soviet envisaged and higher than they would be prepared to contemplate on future occasions.

I made it plain this morning that it is not just a question of wanting the Russians out of Afghanistan but of establishing the circumstances in which this kind of action will not be repeated in the future.

It is against that background that the Soviet Union needs to understand that the price of its actions in Afghanistan will be a heavy one indeed.

There are inevitable limitations to the weight that a nation of 14 million people can put into the scales. Nevertheless we have taken a number of decisions on a broad front which are designed to demonstrate concern and to register the strongest possible opposition to the Soviet Union's actions.

- Some days ago the Government made an offer to the United States to consult with them concerning greater Australian involvement in patrolling and surveillance of the Indian Ocean. Much needs to be determined and options considered, but this could involve Australian participation with United States forces, or a greater independent effort by Australia to survey larger areas of the Indian Ocean.

The United States has reciprocated warmly to that suggestion. It is not one made merely against the short term position that we are now confronting. It is one made against the background of changed strategic circumstances which will involve greater co-operation between Australia and her friends and allies.

- Australia will support United States action in relation to wheat sales to the Soviet Union. We will not pick up any of the short fall created by that decision and will urge other wheat exporting nations to take a similar view. Consistent with United States actions normal sales to the Soviet Union will not be affected.
- We will be putting to the United States at a meeting being held in Washington on Saturday that the 17 million tonnes shortfall resulting from President Carter's decision, should be handled in such a way that the international market in wheat is not prejudiced.
- Any discussions or arrangements or agreements over fisheries matters are indefinitely suspended. This has particular application for two projects: a joint feasibility fishing venture on the North West Shelf off the Western Australian coast; and a feasibility fishing project involving jack mackerel in waters adjacent to Tasmania.

Any approvals previously given in relation to these fisheries projects are withdrawn.

- USSR Liner Shipping services at present operate to and from Australia in conference trades (Australia to Europe Shipping Conference) and in non-conference trades (Australia to Europe, and the triangular service East Asia/Japan, USA and Australia). Russian bulk shipping also carries primary produce bought by Russia from Australia.

These shipping operations and other facilities provided by Australia are currently being reviewed.

- There will be no further approvals for scientific research vessels to visit our ports.
- The visit of the Soviet Fisheries Delegation in February will not be permitted into Australia.
- We will not meet the Soviet request to station Aeroflot personnel in Australia to facilitate the Russian Airline's services going through Australia to other countries.
- In addition we are not prepared to consider their requests for direct Soviet/Australia air flights.
- Scientific collaboration with the Soviet Union is indefinitely suspended.
- Official talks and visits between Australia and the Soviet Union are also indefinitely suspended.

- New programs under the Cultural Program will not be entered into.
- A number of countries have made statements concerning the Olympic Games. Many, including Australia, would prefer, as a result of recent events, that the Games were not being held in Moscow. The Games are, however, an international event - not a Russian event - and should be seen in that context.

Any decision on this matter is therefore of a different kind to decisions affecting bilateral relationships between Australia and Russia. The Government will, therefore, be closely examining these wider aspects and assessing the views of a number of other countries.

In addition to these measures, the Government will be embarking on a wide range of consultations with other countries.

What has happened in Afghanistan has demonstrated that the fears and concerns expressed in my Statement on Foreign Policy in 1976, and repeated on other occasions by the Foreign Minister have been only too realistic.

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