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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL, 1980

PREFERENCE TO AUSTRALIAN-MADE GOODS

The Government is to introduce legislation providing for Commonwealth authorities to comply with the Government's policy of giving preference to Australian-made goods. The legislation will be designed to over-ride certain aspects of the enabling legislation of some authorities which could restrict their freedom to carry out the Government's policy.

While the legislation will generally provide for all Commonwealth authorities to follow the Government's policy there will be provision in the legislation for exemption in situations where a special case could be made.

I have written to the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia seeking their views on the possible extension of the Government's policy of preference to Australian-made goods, to Commonwealth authorities jointly owned or controlled by the Commonwealth and other State Governments, such as the Joint Coal Board, the Albury/Wodonga Development Corporation and the River Murray Commission.

While there may well be special reasons for exempting certain authorities or categories of supplies from the Government's policy, there appears to be no reason why joint ownership as such should necessarily result in the exclusion of such authorities.

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