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The Minister added that restoring balance and growth to the Australian economy would also depend on a sustained recovery in the world economy.

While he welcomed signs of progress in the U.S. economy, Mr Kerin warned that pressure on the U.S. dollar, and fears of it fuelling inflationary pressures and rising interest rates meant the 'recovery' had to be viewed with caution.

The Minister also warned of the dangers of a trade war between the U.S. and the EEC and said that of particular concern to Australia is the potential for enormous damage to our rural industries from subsidised competition in our export markets especially from the EEC.

Mr Kerin said that in formulating its economic strategy the Government had been mindful of the impact of its policies on primary producers.

## Prime Minister

### Message to Robert de Castella

15 August 1983 — The following message was today sent to Robert de Castella by the Prime Minister, the Hon. R. J. L. Hawke:

Your great victory in Helsinki, establishing you unquestionably as the world's top marathon runner, is one that has delighted all of Australia. Your dedication and commitment are an example to all of us. We all extend to you our warmest congratulations.

### Impact of Sex Discrimination Bill

18 August 1983 — The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, Senator the Hon. Susan Ryan, said today:

Under the *Sex Discrimination Bill 1983*, discrimination in employment on the ground of sex is unlawful and the Bill contains machinery to deal with complaints from people who believe they have been discriminated against.

However the bill exempts certain conduct so that it is not unlawful to discriminate against a woman on the ground of sex in relation to her employment, engagement or appointment in a Defence Force position involving combat or combat-related duties. The meaning of 'combat-related duties' is to be prescribed by regulations.

That means if the position of pilot in the RAAF is classified as combat-related a woman who is discriminated against when pilots are employed will have no case to bring under the legislation.

It does not mean that if the RAAF decided to hire a woman pilot that Sex Discrimination Bill would provide any legislative obstacle. It is therefore incorrect to state that when the Bill comes into effect, women will be barred by law from combat and combat-related duties in the Defence Force.

The Government has initiated and inter-departmental review of Defence Force employment of women. The review in which the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Attorney-General's Department will take part, is to commence shortly.

The aim of the review is to identify those duties in the Defence Force which are combat and combat-related and

the positions to which they relate. It is intended that the review will result in furthering the Government's objective of broadening of opportunities for women in the Defence Force. Passage of the Sex Discrimination Bill will in no way limit opportunities for women in the Defence Force.

## Resources and Energy

### Catalogue on water research

16 August 1983 — The Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator the Hon. Peter Walsh, today announced the publication by his Department of the first issue of *Water Research in Australia: Current Projects*. This catalogue contains summaries of all water research projects being undertaken in Australia during 1982, and includes details of nearly 850 projects.

Contributions were received for the catalogue from a large number of organisations, and their co-operation will ensure that this publication becomes a key reference document on the national water research effort. It will be particularly useful in identifying gaps and eliminating duplication in water research in Australia. It represents the first tangible result from the recently established national water information data base STREAMLINE.

The document is being widely distributed in Australia and to a range of key institutions in other countries. The research in progress information on the data base will be updated annually to provide a current record of water research throughout Australia.

Copies of *Water Research in Australia: Current Projects 1982* are available from the Department of Resources and Energy and the Australian Government Publishing Service bookshops.

### Speech to World Solar Congress

18 August 1983 — The following is the text of a speech by the Minister for Energy and Resources, Senator the Hon. Peter Walsh, at the World Solar Congress in Perth:

For some years the highest profile energy policy issue debated in Australia has been that of nuclear power. There is negligible dissent from the view that Australia itself has no need for nuclear power—at least for some time. The debate has focused on whether Australia should facilitate, as a major supplier of uranium, the nuclear power plans of other countries.

Opposition to Australian involvement is derived principally from fears about the immediate and long term environmental dangers of nuclear power including, at the extreme, the possibility of unrestrained nuclear war, the environmental consequences of which, for the human species at least, would probably be terminal.

Use of fossil fuels, the major present source of primary energy, does not entail that spectacular threat to human existence. It does however, in common with nuclear power, liberate additional heat which may have significant effects on the world's climate. More importantly, it dumps in the atmosphere obnoxious gases like sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide—the gas which, though inert, is widely believed to have the potential to significantly increase temperature and drastically change rainfall distribution.