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Letter dated 23 January 1973 from the Permanent Representative of
Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I enclose herewith a copy of a statement made by the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. E. G. Whitlam, in his capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Canberra today, 23 January, dealing with the ratification by Australia of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 1/ and the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof. 2/

I request that you circulate this statement as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Laurence McINTYRE
Permanent Representative

1/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

2/ General Assembly resolution 2660 (XXV), annex.

Statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia
on 23 January 1973

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. E. G. Whitlam, announced today that arrangements had been made for Australia to ratify two treaties relating to the control of nuclear weapons - the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

Mr. Whitlam said that instruments of ratification were being deposited today by Australian representatives in the three depository capitals, London, Washington and Moscow.

"This action fulfils a pledge I gave on behalf of the Government in my first week in office", Mr. Whitlam said. "It reflects the Government's strong and unequivocal support for efforts to check the spread of nuclear weapons, and for the principles of arms control contained in the two treaties."

Mr. Whitlam said that to fulfil the principal requirement of ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Australia was already negotiating with the International Atomic Energy Agency for a safeguards agreement, which would provide practical arrangements to prevent the non-peaceful use of nuclear material.
