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News release: Improved customs procedures Australia/New Zealand

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NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGO 10 a.m.
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IMPROVED CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Senator the Honourable Lionel Murphy, Q.C., Minister for Customs and Excise, today announced new measures designed to achieve streamlined procedures in relation to travel and trade between Australia and New Zealand.

Senior officers of the Australian and New Zealand Customs Departments met last week in Wellington to review the problems associated with the massive growth in passenger and cargo arrivals in both countries.

These discussions included the possible use of computers to facilitate cargo clearance and the exchange of information to improve anti-smuggling techniques, particularly in relation to drugs.

Senator Murphy announced that he had agreed to set up a study group to examine means to accelerate the clearance of cargo traded between Australia and New Zealand. Another study group will examine the feasibility of carrying out the Customs examination of passengers before they leave each country.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

9 April 1974.