

HIGH TECHNOLOGIES INDUSTRY 1987 Decision

Whilst commending the Government on its initiative in addressing the issues affecting some of the high technology industries, Congress expresses its concern at the apparent bias in the Government's information industries strategy in favour of multinational companies at the expense of Australian owned enterprises. The solution to the problems in the information industries is in policies which encourage firms, especially Australian-owned firms, to give priority attention to skills enhancement and training, product innovation and export marketing. The policies and role of public enterprises such as Telecom, Australia Post, O.T.C. and AUSSAT are a vital part of the infrastructure necessary to achieve this aim. In this connection, Congress draws the Government's attention to the recommendations in *Australia Reconstructed* which, while expressed in terms of a more general industry nature, are relevant to the high technology sector such as information industries.

The statement appears significantly different from the results of the consultation which led up to it and in one respect (Partnership Agreements) involved completely inadequate consultation with the Trade Union Movement. Accordingly Congress calls on the Government to provide the unions with a detailed briefing and opportunity for further negotiations on the implications of the Statement.

The government has said it will be reviewing the regulatory environment affecting the information industries. As such a review could have significant implications for employment in public sector organisations and in private sector manufacturing and service industries, Congress calls on the Government to consult fully with the ACTU, relevant unions and other parties so that their views can be fully taken into account.