

16

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
WELLINGTON

Outward Telegram to

RZUPX COUNW CANBERRA 22/1/73 222047

UNCLASSIFIED

110

FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF JOINT PRIME MINISTERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, WELLINGTON, AFTERNOON OF 22 JANUARY 1972.

BEGINS -

MR WHITLAM -

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO SUGGEST THAT I SHOULD ANNOUNCE THIS MATTER WHICH HIS CABINET WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO DECIDE WHEN I VISITED THEM THIS MORNING. I SUPPOSE THAT YOU HAD HEARD THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAD SOUGHT NEW ZEALAND'S ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA. THERE IS A START OF SUCH A SERVICE IN THE SMALLEST AUSTRALIAN STATE AND THE THIRD SMALLEST BUT NOT IN ANY OF THE OTHERS. YOU KNOW THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL SYSTEM. THIS WOULD ORDINARILY BE A STATE RESPONSIBILITY, BUT SINCE THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY UP TILL NOW, IT'S FALLEN TO THE NEW COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT TO DO IT AND WE NATURALLY THOUGHT OF NEW ZEALAND'S EXPERIENCE EXTENDING I BELIEVE OVER 50 YEARS. SO WE SAID IN THE WORDS OF PAUL, WILL YOU COME OVER AND HELP US AND MR TIZARD PUT TO CABINET TODAY A PROPOSAL WHICH WILL, WE BELIEVE, ENABLE US TO TAKE UP 50 PLACES IN MARCH, ISN'T IT, AND ANOTHER 50 PLACES IN SEPTEMBER, AND THEN WE WOULD HOPE IN DUE COURSE THAT YOUR MATRON INSPECTORS WILL COME TO AUSTRALIA AND HELP TO ESTABLISH SIMILAR TRAINING FACILITIES THERE TO SUPERINTEND THE OPERATION OF THE SERVICE IN THE SCHOOLS. WELL, I'D LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLICLY, AS I HAVE WARMLY IN PRIVATE, THAT THIS HAS BEEN A MOST GENEROUS ACTION BY THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT. IT'S A FIELD WHERE NEW ZEALAND HAS HAD A SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEME OF GREAT BENEFIT FOR MANY YEARS. AUSTRALIA HAS NOT. SO YOU WERE WILLING TO HELP US START. THE URGENCY OF IT FLOWS OF COURSE FROM THE FACT THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THIS CAREER ARE JUST GETTING THEIR EXAM RESULTS FROM THE END OF THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION AND WILL BE DETERMINING WHAT THEY SHALL DO NEXT, SO MANY OF THEM WILL NOW BE ABLE TO SERVE IN THIS NEW FIELD.

Q. - PRIME MINISTER, IN RESPECT OF THE 50 PLACES THAT ARE GOING TO COME TO AUSTRALIA ..(INAUDIBLE)

MR WHITLAM - NO, THEY WILL BE AUSTRALIANS COMING TO NEW ZEALAND TO OCCUPY THE SPARE PLACES WHICH NEW ZEALAND HAS CREATED FOR THEM.

Q.- WILL THIS BE AT NEW ZEALAND'S EXPENSE?

MR WHITLAM - NO, NO, WE'LL BE QUITE WILLING TO PAY FOR THE WHOLE LOT .

MR KIRK - WE HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE TRAINING OF THE AUSTRALIANS HERE. THERE WILL BE SOME NEGOTIATIONS AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL TO SET THE TERMS OF WHICH IT HAS ACHIEVED. WE ARE TOLD BY OUR ADVISERS THAT ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE PLACES AVAILABLE IS THAT THE WIDENED USE OF FLUORIDES HAS IMPROVED DENTAL HEALTH TO THE POINT THAT THERE IS SOME AVAILABLE ACCOMMODATION NOW INSIDE THE SERVICE SO THAT IT IS ABLE TO BE UTILISED IN THIS WAY.

Q.- MR KIRK, COULD YOU TELL US THE NAME OF THE SERVICE, WHAT SCHOOLS WILL THEY BE USING, WHAT COURSES WILL THEY BE UNDERTAKING?

MR KIRK - WELL, THEY'LL COME HERE TO WELLINGTON. THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE (UNDERLINE THREE) IS IT'S POPULAR DESIGNATION THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND, AND IT HAS BEEN A SCHOOL THAT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF YOUNG WOMEN, THOUGH THERE IS NO SPECIFIC REASON WHY IT SHOULD BE EXCLUSIVELY HELD TO THEM. IT MAY WELL BE THAT AUSTRALIA OR OURSELVES MAY WANT TO TRAIN YOUNG MEN WHO CHOOSE TO TAKE UP THIS VOCATION. THERE IS NO STRICT LIMITATION ON WOMEN ONLY. AND IT PROVIDES DENTAL CARE FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Q. - THERE IS NO REASON FOR AUSTRALIA TO RECRUIT EXISTING TRAINED DENTAL SERVICES TO COME TO AUSTRALIA.

MR KIRK - NO, THEY WILL RECRUIT FROM THEIR OWN YOUNG PEOPLE AND IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE TRAINEES COME HERE, AND WE WELCOME IT FOR ANOTHER REASON BECAUSE IT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPLOY SKILLED AND TRAINED NEW ZEALANDERS IN NEW ZEALAND RATHER THAN LOSE THEM ABROAD WHERE TRAINING HAS TAKEN THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Q. - WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE COURSE?

MR KIRK - I CAN'T TELL YOU THE FULL LENGTH OF THE COURSE, BUT THE SECOND INTAKE WILL COME IN WHEN IT HAS BEEN RUNNING TWO YEARS.

MR WHITLAM - I THINK IT'S THAT. THE AUSTRALIANS HERE WILL KNOW, AND WHAT THE NEW ZEALANDER MIGHTN'T APPRECIATE, THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS WANTING TO CREATE A SUFFICIENT FRAMEWORK IN THE LIFETIME OF THIS PARLIAMENT - IN THIS COMING THREE YEARS - TO ENSURE THAT IN THE FOLLOWING PARLIAMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AS WELL AS FOR DENTAL THERAPISTS OR DENTAL NURSES AND YOUTH LEADERS: AND IN AUSTRALIA THERE ARE JUST NOT AT PRESENT THE FACILITIES TO TRAIN THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO WANT TO TAKE THESE CAREERS. THIS WAS ONE WHERE YOU COULD HELP US.

Q. - WHEN CAN WE EXPECT THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE TRAINED HERE WILL BE ACTUALLY OPERATING IN AUSTRALIA?

MR WHITLAM - I DON'T KNOW. THIS WILL BETTER COME FROM MR TIZARD, THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTER FOR HEALTH, OR DR EVERINGHAM, THE AUSTRALIAN ONE, WHO IS SENDING US EXCELLENT INFORMATION OVER THIS WEEK. IT COULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE FIRST OF THEM TO BE TRAINING IN MARCH.

Q. - I'D LIKE TO ASK MR KIRK WHETHER THIS INVOLVES ANY ALTERATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND COURSE, TO ACCOMMODATE THESE.

MR KIRK - NO, THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BASIS OF TRAINING WILL BE CONTINUED AND IT WILL BE TO THE SAME STANDARD AND THE SAME WORK.

Q. - AND THE NUMBERS ACTUALLY UNDERGOING TRAINING WILL NOT BE EXPANDED BY THIS PROCESS?

MR KIRK - NO, WE HAVE SOME AVAILABLE CAPACITY AND IT MEANS THAT WE CAN TAKE 50 IN THIS INTAKE AND 50 AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER. IF THERE IS AN EXPANSION OF THE FACILITIES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR A GREATER NUMBER IF THIS WAS NEEDED, THAT ALSO CAN BE ARRANGED, AND AT THE POINT WHERE WE ARRIVE WHERE THE FACILITIES ARE GREATER THAN IS NEEDED THERE IS STILL BE POTENTIAL WITHIN THOSE FACILITIES FOR SOME SIMILAR TRAINING AS PART OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF ESTABLISHING FACILITIES WHICH COULD BECOME REDUNDANT. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LONGER TERM USAGE.

Q. - IS THIS SCHEME LIKELY TO BE THE FORERUNNER OF OTHER SCHEMES WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS?

MR KIRK - IT COULD WELL BE WHERE THERE IS ADVANTAGE IN WORKING TOGETHER - WE'RE CERTAINLY GOING TO DO IT.

Q.- PRIME MINISTER, CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT THE COMMUNIQUE IN RESPECT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING. YOU'VE AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER AND USE ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS. WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO SAY WHAT MEANS YOU WOULD CONSIDER APPROPRIATE?

MR WHITLAM - NO, WE CERTAINLY DID DISCUSS MEANS, BUT QUITE FRANKLY WE DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS OF THESE THINGS AT THE MOMENT. I DON'T KNOW IF IN NEW ZEALAND THE ANSWER IS ACCEPTABLE THAT USED TO BE ACCEPTABLE IN AUSTRALIA RECENTLY, BUT THIS IS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. WE ARE IN AUSTRALIA NOT GOING TO ASSUME THAT THE FRENCH WILL GO AHEAD WITH ANY FURTHER NUCLEAR TESTING REGARDLESS OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER AND OF THE PROCEEDINGS WHICH AUSTRALIA IS GOING TO INTIATE IN THE WORLD COURT. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT AUSTRALIA HAS TAKEN THIS STEP OF DELIVERING A NOTE TO FRANCE RAISING A LEGAL DISPUTE. WE ARE NOT AT THIS STAGE GOING TO ASSUME THAT THE FRENCH WILL PRESS ON.

Q. - DID YOU DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF AUSTRALIA'S CHALLENGE? HAS NEW ZEALAND AGREED TO SUPPORT IT?

MR WHITLAM - HERE AGAIN I THINK WE HAVE TO BE A LITTLE RETICENT WITH YOU IF YOU DON'T MIND, BECAUSE THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF THE COURT PROCEEDINGS WHICH WOULD BE PLACED IN DOUBT IF WE WERE TO BROADCAST THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OR THE BASIS OF THEM.

Q. - COULD I ASK MR KIRK WHETHER NEW ZEALAND IS GOING TO GO ALONG WITH AUSTRALIA FULLY ON THIS SUBMISSION TO THE WORLD COURT?

MR KIRK - WE DON'T FIND OURSELVES IN ANY POSITION SO FAR AS THE APPROACH TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT IS CONCERNED, AND INDEED WE HAVE CONDUCTED SOME PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF WHAT IS INVOLVED. FURTHERMORE WE HAVE GATHERED AN AMOUNT OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE INVALUABLE ON ANY SUCH COURT ACTION, AND I MIGHT ADD TO THAT SPECIFICALLY THAT, BYT VIRTUE OF BEING CLOSER TO THE TEST AREA THAN AUSTRALIA, HAVE THAT MUCH ADDED STANDING TO THIS COMPLAINT, SO FAR AS FALLOUT FROM THE TESTS IS CONCERNED. FOR OUR PART OF IT, WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE APPROACH THAT AUSTRALIA HAS MADE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT. WE'RE INTERESTED IN IT. WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN SOME LEGAL STUDIES AND CERTAINLY WE'RE EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA IN THAT RESPECT. THOUGH THAT IS NOT ALL WE'RE EXAMINING. WE HAVE SIMILARLY CONSIDERED CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND WE WILL CONTINUE OF COURSE WITH THAT. BUT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION OF ACCEPTING THAT FRANCE IS ENTRENCHED INTO THE POINT THAT IT WILL NOT CEASE THE TESTING, BUT WE'RE BEING PROVEN IN THAT SO FAR AS WE'RE ABLE, IF SUCH AN ENTRENCHMENT WOULD DEVELOP, THAT WE WOULD STILL BE IN A POSITION TO GO ON WITHOUT ANY GREAT LOSS OF TIME.

Q.- SO THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT NEW ZEALAND WILL NOT GO ON WITH AUSTRALIA TO THE WORLD COURT?

MR KIRK - NO, WE'RE NOT EXAMINING IT FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW. I THINK THAT THERE ARE NO GROUNDS FOR JUSTIFYING THAT QUESTION.

Q.- CAN I PUT IT ANOTHER WAY? YOU SAID A LITTLE WHILE AGO, EFFECTIVE MEANS OF CHALLENGING THE TESTS STEMS THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL COURT FOR THE CHALLENGE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

MR KIRK - NO, I SAID EFFECTIVE MEANS, AND I DIDN'T MEAN THAT THIS WOULD BE SOME METHOD OF USING THE COURT, BUT AN EFFECTIVE AVENUE THAT IS OPEN TO BRING ABOUT NOT ONLY FRENCH TESTING., BUT WE'RE CONCERNED TO BRING ABOUT THE CESSATION OF ALL TESTING, AND SO ANY EFFECTIVE AVENUE WOULD CERTAINLY BE EXAMINED BY US AND WE'RE EXAMINING THE INTERNATIONAL COURT, THE PART THAT WE CAN PLAY IN IT AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HOW WE COULD BE LINKED WITH IT. AND WE SHOULD BE QUITE HAPPY TO CO-OPERATE IN EVERY WAY WE CAN WITH ANY ACTION THAT ADVANCES THE OBJECT OF BRINGING ABOUT THE CESSATION OF WEAPONS TESTING.

Q.- MR KIRK, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, I THINK BY YOURSELF DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, I'M SUBJECT TO CORRECTION ON THAT POINT, THAT NEW ZEALAND COULD SEND A SHIP WITH CABINET MINISTERS ABOARD TO THE AREA OF MURORUA ATOLL. WAS THIS ONE OF THE EFFECTIVE MEANS THAT YOU DISCUSSED WITH MR WHITLAM AND DID YOU ASK WHETHER THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRALIA PROVIDING REFUELLING FACILITIES FOR SUCH A VENTURE?

MR KIRK - NO. WE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION AND IT IS STILL VERY MUCH IN OUR MIND, BUT AS A LAST RESORT, AND I AM NOT PREPARED AT THIS STAGE THAT WE SHOULD BE SO UNSUCCESSFUL AS TO GET TO THE LAST RESORT BEFORE WE GET ANY MOVEMENT.

Q.- IS THAT WHEN YOU THOUGH THE IDEA UP?

MR KIRK - OH NO. WE ARE NOT .. (INAUDIBLE) .. THE NEW ZEALAND VIEW RELENTING IN ANY WAY. WE WANT THOSE TESTS TO CEASE. I HOPE THAT FRANCE WILL REALISE WHAT DAMAGE IT IS DOING TO THE REPUTATION OF FRANCE TO CONTINUE THE TESTS AND WILL CEASE THAT PARTICULAR PROJECT, BUT I THINK IT'S PUTTING THE CAR BEFORE THE HORSE TO START FIGHTING FROM THE LAST DITCH. WE WANT TO START A BIT EARLIER THAN THAT.

Q.- HAS THERE BEEN ANY ACTION OR COMMUNICATION WHICH SUGGESTS TO YOU POSITIVELY THAT FRANCE MAY IN FACT ACT UPON ITS PROPOSALS TO GO AHEAD AND HOLD THE TESTS?

MR KIRK - NO, AND I'M BOUND TO SAY WE HAVE HAD NO RECENT OR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS THAT IT WILL CONTINUE. SO AT THIS STAGE IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION.

Q. - IN THE EVENT OF IT BEING NECESSARY TO GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTIC AND THE APPEAL BE DONE TO GET AN INJUNCTION TO RESTRAIN IT WHAT IS THE LAST RESORT AS AUSTRALIA ..(INAUDIBLE)

MR WHITLAM - WE SOUGHT OUT SEVERAL CONTINGENCIES, YES, BUT I DON'T WANT TO STATE WHAT THEY ARE.

MR KIRK - I MIGHT ADD TO THAT IF I COULD. WE'RE ATTRACTED TO THE PROPOSITION OF GOING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT BECAUSE TO SMALL COUNTRIES THE RULE OF LAW IS TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT AND IT OFFERS ONE AVENUE OF ENDEAVOUR WHICH ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE ATTACHMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. AND SMALL NATIONS THE WORLD OVER ARE TREMENDOUSLY DEPENDENT ON THE RULE OF LAW. THIS HAS CONSIDERABLE ATTRACTION AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED.

Q.- WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION OF YOUR IDEA LAST YEAR, MR KIRK, OF YOUR HOLDING A CONFERENCE OF ALL AFFECTED COUNTRIES - NOTABLY AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE ISLAND TERRITORIES AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES?

MR KIRK - YES, AS AN APPROACH, AND IT HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT.

Q.- WAS THAT CANVASSED THOUGH IN YOUR TALKS WITH MR WHITLAM?

MR KIRK - OH YES.

Q.- WHAT'S YOUR POSITION ON THAT MR WHITLAM? DO YOU SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF HAVING A SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON THE TESTS?

MR WHITLAM - I THINK THIS IS QUITE AN APPROPRIATE METHOD. AS I SAY, WE DON'T WANT TO CONCED THAT FRANCE WILL NOT FALL INTO LINE WITH THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY EVERY COUNTRY WITHIN THOUSANDS OF MILES OF THE TESTS, OR THAT THE STEPS WHICH WE HAVE IN MIND IN THE WORLD COURT WOULDN'T SUCCEED IN PREVENTING FRANCE FROM GOING AHEAD WITH THEM IF SHE WANTED TO. WE DON'T WANT TO ASSUME THAT FRANCE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFY WORLD OPINION OR, IF IT CAME TO THAT, TO DISREGARD THE WORLD COURT.

Q.- WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT FRANCE MIGHT CHANGE ITS MIND NOW AFTER IT HASN'T AFTER ALL THE PRESSURES OF THE PAST?

MR WHITLAM - WELL, FRANCE DID CHANGE HER MIND ONCE BEFORE ON NUCLEAR TESTS. SHE DID CONDUCT THEM MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO IN THE SAHARA, AND THE AFRICAN NATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN HER COLONIES SECURED SO MUCH SUPPORT IN THE UNITED NATIONS THAT FRANCE DISCONTINUED IN THE SAHARA AND OF COURSE BROUGHT THEM TO OUR HEMISPHERE. BUT THEY WERE DISCONTINUED THROUGH POLITICAL ACTION IN THE SAHARA.

Q.- IN PRACTICAL TERMS DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE ANY HOPE OF PERSUADING THEM NOT TO CONTINUE?

MR WHITLAM - YES. THAT THERE WERE NOT TESTS IN 1971 I THINK IT WAS...THERE IS QUITE A CHANCE AFTER ALL NOT EVERY FRENCHMAN SUPPORTS THIS COURSE.

Q.- THE COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO "FAILING SUCH AN ASSURANCE" BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE QUITE SPECIFIC ABOUT SIMPLY AN ASSURANCE TO GIVE UP THE TESTS ..(INAUDIBLE)..PAGE 6, "THE PRIME MINISTERS HAVE DECLARED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION, FAILING SUCH AN ASSURANCE". IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE QUITE CLEAR FROM THE WORDING WHAT THE ASSURANCE SPECIFICALLY WAS THAT YOU SOUGHT.

MR WHITLAM - THAT THEY WOULD NOT GO AHEAD.

Q.- THAT IS IN FACT THE ASSURANCE THAT YOU SEEK?

MR KIRK - I THINK IF YOU GO TO THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THAT SECTION TO GET THE MEANING OF THAT ... "THEY EMPHASISED THAT THEIR OPPOSITION EXTENDED TO ALL FORMS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING BY WHATEVER NATION AND REAFFIRMED THE OBJECTIVES OF A SUSPENSION OF ALL SUCH TESTING AND THE CONCLUSION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY".

Q.- I THOUGHT ALSO IT MIGHT HAVE RELATED TO THE WORDS "APPEALED IN PARTICULAR TO FRANCE TO APPRECIATE THE SPECIAL DEGREE". WELL, IF THE ASSURANCE IS SIMPLY THE APPRECIATION OF FRANCE, CONCEIVABLY WE COULD SAY, "YES WE APPRECIATE THAT..."

MR WHITLAM - WE WILL STILL GO AHEAD ..(GARBLED CONVERSATION INAUDIBLE)

Q. - THE ASSURANCE IS SIMPLY TO STOP TESTS?

MR WHITLAM - YES.

Q.- YOU REFER TO "WE" HAVING CONTINGENCY PLANS. BY "WE" DO YOU MEAN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND OR AUSTRALIA?

MR WHITLAM - AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Q.- YOU'VE DISCUSSED CONTINGENCY PLANS AND AGREED?

MR WHITLAM - YES.

Q. - YOU SAY YOU'VE GATHERED SOME SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION. CAN YOU SAY WHEN YOU GATHERED THAT?

MR KIRK - IT'S BEEN GATHERED OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS BECAUSE THOUGH THE SOUTH PACIFIC THE D.S.I.R. HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MONITORING THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION.

Q.- CAN YOU SAY WHAT THE CONCLUSIONS OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS ARE?

MR KIRK - I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO QUOTE YOU THE DETAILS OF THAT BUT I AM TOLD THAT THE INFORMATION IS HELD IN THE VOLUME OF (INAUDIBLE) IN RESPECT TO (INAUDIBLE).

Q.- MR WHITLAM, I WONDER IF YOU COULD GIVE US SOME COMMENT ON YOUR ATTITUDE TO THE FUTURE OF NEW REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS. YOU REFERRED TO ASEAN. YOU DON'T MENTION THE FUTURE OF ASPAC AND I WONDER IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE TWO GOVERNMENTS' ATTITUDE TO ASSOCIATION WITH EITHER OF THOSE BODIES.

MR WHITLAM - IT'S TRUE WE DO SAY QUITE AN AMOUNT HERE ABOUT OTHER REGIONAL BODIES. WE DISCUSSED ALL OF THESE BODIES, BUT LET ME GO OFF ON A COMMENT OF MY OWN. THE GREAT FAULT OF ASPAC NOW IS THAT IT INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHIANG KAI-SHEK REGIME ON THE BASIS OF ITS CLAIM TO BE THE SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA. CLEARLY SOME MEMBERS OF ASPAC WOULD NOT ACCEPT THAT CLAIM. JAPAN DOESN'T, NEITHER NEW ZEALAND NOR AUSTRALIA. IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES...ONE WOULD EXPECT THAT SOME CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP SHOULD TAKE PLACE OR SOME ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP. THE ADVANTAGE OF ASPAC - TO GIVE THE POSITIVE ASPECT - IS THAT IT IS THE ONLY ORGANISATION WHICH HAS (INAUDIBLE) BUT ASIAN OR WEST PACIFIC MATTERS, AND IT'S THE ONLY ONE WHICH INCLUDES, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA.

Q.- WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHINA AS AN ADDITION?

MR WHITLAM - WELL TECHNICALLY, IN THE SENSE THAT CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO BE THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, SOME PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT CHINA IS A MEMBER. I WOULD THINK THAT CHINA SHOULD BE IN THE TERMS IN WHICH JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA RECOGNISE THE SITUATION - NAMELY, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN PEKING IS THE SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA. BUT AFTER ALL THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES TOO WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED. THE IDEAL WOULD BE TO NOT ONLY INCLUDE JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN ASEAN BUT THE WHOLE OF THAT EAST COAST OF ASIA. I DON'T THINK ONE OUGHT TO ASSUME THAT THIS COULD BE A MILITARY PACT. THE DAYS OF MILITARY PACTS (INTERRUPTION) MUTUAL ASSISTANCE - THE WORDING THERE COVERS THIS SITUATION YOU RAISE ABOUT ASPAC IN PARTICULAR.

Q.- MR WHITLAM CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT THE CHAPTER IN THE COMMUNIQUE ON TRAVEL. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE ENTRY OF NEW ZEALANDERS OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND ORIGIN WILL NOW BE LIFTED?

MR WHITLAM - YES.

Q. - IS THERE ANYTHING TO STOP SAY AN INFLUX OF PACIFIC ISLANDERS INTO AUSTRALIA FROM NEW ZEALAND?

MR KIRK - IT WILL DEPEND OF COURSE FIRST ON THEIR BEING NEW ZEALANDERS. I THINK THAT THE DISTINCTION THAT OUGHT TO BE SEEN IN THIS, AND ONE THAT REALLY TROUBLES US A GREAT DEAL IN THIS COUNTRY, WAS (INAUDIBLE), AND THE VOLUNTARY ACTION OF AUSTRALIA ELIMINATING THIS DISTINCTION IS THAT OUR CONCERN REVOLVED ABOUT THE DISCRIMINATION OF ONE NEW ZEALANDER TO ANOTHER. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF HIS ORIGIN, THE FACT WAS HE WAS A NEW ZEALANDER. AND A CHINESE WHO WAS NEW ZEALAND-BORN, A PACIFIC ISLANDER WHO WAS NEW ZEALAND-BORN AND A NEW ZEALANDER IN EVERY ASPECT WOULD BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM EUROPEANS. NOW THAT DISTINCTION HAS REMAINED SO THAT IF THEY ARE NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS THE RULE APPLIES, BUT NOT IF THEY'RE NOT.

Q-'

Q.- DOES IT MEAN THAT THEY HAVE TO BE NECESSARILY NEW ZEALAND BORN NO?

MR MIRK - NO, THEY HAVE TO BE NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS. BUT, FOR EXAMPLE ASIANS WHO ARE DUTCHMEN ABOUT TO BE NATURALISED IF ANY OF THE DUTCH MIGRANTS SEEK TO BECOME NEW ZEALANDERS. BUT THEY HAVE TO TAKE UP NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP TO QUALIFY, OR OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE NOT A NEW ZEALANDER.

Q.- CAN I ASK MR WHITLAM NOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO STOP THE NUMBER OF PACIFIC ISLANDERS BECOMING NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS AND GOING TO AUSTRALIA.

MR WHITLAM - IF THEY ARE NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS, OR IF THEY'RE CITIZENS OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WHO HAVE RESIDENT STATUS IN NEW ZEALAND, THEN THEY CAN COME TO AUSTRALIA WITHOUT PASSPORTS OR VISAS.

MR KIRK - THEY DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY GREAT FEAR ON THAT SCORE. THE POINT I THINK YOU OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT THE ISLAND POPULATION IN NEW ZEALAND, THAT IS PEOPLE WHO COME FROM THE ISLAND COUNTRIES TO OUR COUNTRY, ARE NOW NUMBERING SOMEWHERE ABOUT 36,000 AT PRESENT. MOST HAVE SET THEIR ROOTS DOWN AND MADE THEIR HOMES HERE AND ARE UNLIKELY TO SHIFT, BECAUSE IT IS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF THEIR NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP BUT THE MATTERS OF POLENYSIAN AFFINITY HAVING TO DEFINE CULTURALLY. I THINK FOR A START THERE ARE 37,000 PEOPLE IN THIS CATEGORY, AND THE IDEA THAT THIS BECOMES SOME SORT OF ROUND-ABOUT WAY OF MIGRATING TO AUSTRALIA ISN'T REALLY FAIR TREATMENT OF WHAT YOU PROPOSE. THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS SAID TO ALL NEW ZEALAND'S CITIZENS THAT THEY STAND EQUAL, AND WE ARE VERY HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

Q.- I'D LIKE TO REFER BRIEFLY TO THIS QUESTION, IF I MAY SIR, OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS. MR WHITLAM, AT THE LUNCHEON TODAY YOU GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD STRIVE TO THE UTMOST TO SEE THAT ALL CONSTRUCTIVE AND VALID ASSOCIATIONS THAT ARE INHERITED BE PRESERVED AND REINFORCED. WOULD YOU REGARD SEATO AS A CONSTRUCTIVE AND VALID ASSOCIATION?

MR WHITLAM - WELL LET'S SEE HOW IT DEVELOPS. I HAVE USED THE WORD 'MORIBUND' ABOUT IT IN THE PAST, AND SINCE THEN PEKISTAN HAS DRAWN OUT OF IT, OR GIVEN NOTICE THAT IT'S GOING TO.

Q.- MR KIRK, ON PAGE 3, SECOND LAST PARAGRAPH, IS A REFERENCE TO 'GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AREA'. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE PROPOSED PACIFIC COUNCIL WHICH IS PART AND PARCEL OF YOUR ELECTION MANIFESTO AND WHICH IS DESIGNED ALSO TO SET UP SOMETHING WHICH WOUNDS A BIT LIKE THE PARLIAMENT OF EUROPE., PARLIAMENTARIANS CONSULTING, MEETING REGULARLY.

MR KIRK - THE PARLIAMENT OF EUROPE HAS NO FORCE IN THE SENSE THAT THE NORDIC COUNCIL HAS, AND WHAT WE PROPOSE IS RELATED TO THE NORDIC COUNCIL.

Q.- CAN YOU DISCUSS THE PROPOSED PACIFIC COUNCIL, OR DID YOU REACH ANY AGREEMENT ON IT WITH MR WHITLAM?

MR KIRK - WELL WHAT WE'VE DONE IS TO ACCEPT THAT IN THE PACIFIC MATTERS ARE NOT SETTLED BY OUR DECISIONS ALONE, BUT SETTLED BY OTHERS, AND THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN DEVELOPING AS A FORUM OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION, AND WHAT WE WILL DO IS OBVIOUSLY DISCUSS THE PROSPECTS OF THE PACIFIC COUNCIL INSIDE THE CONTEXT... IF THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE IS CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING ADEQUATELY THEN THAT'S THE COURSE WE'LL FOLLOW. BUT IT'S NOT JUST FOR US ALONE TO MAKE THAT DECISION. THE ISLAND COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE VIEWS ON THIS, AND IT'S A MATTER OF PUTTING IN IDEAS AND WORKING TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT. IT'S ESSENTIAL IN MY VIEW: (1) THAT THERE IS A POLITICAL FORUM WHERE POLITICAL TOPICS MAY BE FREELY DISCUSSED, (2) IT IS VITAL THAT PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE REPRESENTED IN THAT FORUM, BECAUSE IN DEMOCRACY, AS WE'VE SEEN IN TWO IMPORTANT COUNTRIES RECENTLY, GOVERNMENTS HAVE CHANGED, AND I THINK IF PARLIAMENTS ARE REPRESENTED THEN THERE IS A CONTINUITY OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND A CONTINUITY OF EXPERIENCE INSIDE THE POLITICAL FORUM WHERE THESE DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE, SO THAT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CHANGES IN A COUNTRY DON'T NECESSARILY MEAN RADICAL CHANGES. IN THIS SORT OF FORUM, YOU CAN PRESERVE SOME SORT OF CONTINUITY OF APPROACH. WHEN I FIRST SUGGESTED THE CONCEPT OF A PACIFIC COUNCIL THERE WAS NO POLITICAL FORUM FOR DISCUSSION - AND INDEED EVEN BEFORE - IN WHICH THE HEADS OF STATE DISCUSSED MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE REGION AND THE INDIVIDUAL STATES DID NOT EXIST, AND THE PROPOSITION WAS PATTERNED ON THE NORDIC COUNCIL WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO RATIONALISE DEVELOPMENT, THOUGH FOR EXAMPLE THE UNIVERSITY BENEFITTED CONSOLIDATED CENTRALISED LIBRARIES AND THINGS OF THIS KIND.

(CHANGE TO OTHER SIDE OF TAPE)

....BUT WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED IS DRAWING TOGETHER A BIT CLOSER SO THAT WE CAN COORDINATE DEVELOPMENT AND SPEED IT UP.

Q.- COULD I ASK YOU WHAT YOU SEE AS AN INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN INDO-CHINA?

MR KIRK - WELL, WE ARE LIKE AUSTRALIA, EXCEPT THAT WHILE WE TERMINATED MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY WE DIDN'T WITHDRAW FROM THE INDO-CHINA REGION, AND CONSEQUENTLY, ON THE DAY THAT WE ANNOUNCED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LAST OF OUR MILITARY FORCES THERE, WE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT WE WOULD DOUBLE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OUR CONTRIBUTION FOR CIVILIAN REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION., AND FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE WE WANT TO SEE THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE AN EFFECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AND TO TRY AND DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP IN ITS EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION AND STANDING OF WORLD-WIDE, HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO PUT A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE ASSISTANCE WE'VE GRANTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS SO THAT IT WILL GO BACK THROUGH THAT BODY INTO INDO-CHINA. SO WE HAVE ACCEPTED IN FACT THAT WE SHALL PAY EXTRA AMOUNT FOR CIVILIAN RECONSTRUCTION IN THE INDO-CHINA AREA.

Q.- DOES THIS INCLUDE NORTH VIET-NAM?

MR KIRK - INDO-CHINA INCLUDES, LAOS, CAMBODIA, SOUTH VIET-NAM AND NORTH VIET-NAM.

Q.- DO YOU EXPECT SIR, THAT, LIKE AUSTRALIA YOU MAY HAVE ULTIMATELY REPRESENTATION OF SOME FORM IN HANOI?

MR KIRK - NO, WE HAVEN'T CONSIDERED FRANKLY, FOR A COUNTRY AS SMALL AS NEW ZEALAND WITH THE RESOURCES WE HAVE WE'VE HAD TO FOLLOW FAIRLY STRICT PRIORITIES WHERE WE CAN OPEN NEW POSTS AND WE HAVEN'T ACCORDED A HIGH PRIORITY TO THIS, BECAUSE AT THE MOMENT WE ARE INVOLVED IN CONSIDERING THE OPENING OF A POST IN (INAUDIBLE). THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON RESOURCES WHICH HAVE POSED TIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

ENDS.

PLEASE NOTIFY MR WOOLCOTTOR MR HOYLE OF RECEIPT OF THIS TRANSCRIPT.

WE REGRET THE LACK OF CLARITY. OFFICIAL TEXT IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE FROM MR KIRK'S OFFICE APPROXIMATELY 1000 HOURS LOCAL TIME 23 JANUARY. WE WILL CABLE THAT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE UNLESS YOU ADVISE OTHERWISE.

(CFM 110)
ENDS 230035LT
SHA