

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 12.30 NEWS

Rupert Murdoch is making a takeover offer worth \$125 million for the Melbourne media group, the Herald and Weekly Times. Mr. Murdoch said he wanted to get control of just over 50 per cent of the group.

Another ten hostages have been brought of the American Embassy in Teheran and are expected to be released and put on an aircraft out of Iran in the next few hours. So far 13 hostages will have been released. The ten hostages about to be released appeared at a new conference in the compound of the American Embassy. Newsmen said they appeared well and in good condition. About 50 Americans and some 20 foreigners are believed to be still held captive and the Iranians have said some of them may be put on trial on charges of spying.

Britain is going ahead with preparations for bringing Zimbabwe-Rhodesia to legal independence. A Royal Hercules Transport aircraft has landed in Salisbury with an official Daimler car for the proposed British Governor who will supervise arrangements running up to new elections. A British spokesman in Salisbury said the car and equipment were intended to ensure if the London settlement talks succeeded, preparations for the arrival of the Governor would be well underway. Meanwhile in London Patriotic Front Leaders are demanding what they call a substantial Commonwealth Force to keep the peace in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

Unemployment showed another seasonal fall last month according to the second set of unemployment figures for October. The number of people registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service as seeking full-time work fell by just over 6,000 during the month to 383,000 or 5.9 per cent of the total workforce. This was almost the same as the unemployment rate for October last year as calculated by the C.E.S. The service reported a continuing tight labour market with the number of unfilled vacancies falling particularly for juniors. However the latest labour force survey by the Bureau of Statistics indicated that in September the full-time labour force increased by 76,000 or 1.3 per cent.

The former Soviet spy, Anthony Blunt, is reported to have been traced to an address in West London. Mr. Blunt is due to hold a news conference in London about the same time as a special debate on the spy scandal begins in the House of Commons tomorrow. Mr. Blunt's whereabouts were traced by the BBC.

Turkey's Prime Minister has announced an extension of martial law and the creation of special courts as part of the fight against terrorism. He gave notice of the moves when he outlined his new government's program to a joint sitting of both Houses of the Turkish Parliament. Political violence and inflation were the central issues in the new government's program.

The first competitors in the Parmelia yacht race from Plymouth in England are now expected to reach Fremantle in Western Australia late tomorrow. At last report, a West Australian entry, Independent Endeavour, was about 450 miles from Fremantle.

A Melbourne research team says Australia is heading for a crisis over the disposal of the potentially cancerous manmade chemical PCB. In a report to the State Government, the team says that PCB could seriously contaminate the human food chain if effective disposal facilities are not found. Microbiologists, Mr. Bruce Richardson and Professor John Wade were commissioned by the Victorian Conservation Ministry to investigate the effects of PCB wastes in the environment, particularly in the Port Phillip region.

Petroleum company has discovered gas in the onshore basin north of Port Campbell in Victoria's western district. The company's chief executive, Mr. John Hinkins, says the discovery shows gas flowing at an estimated 200,000 cubic metres a day. He says it is too early to determine whether the find is of commercial significance. There are no indications that there is oil as well as gas.

The trial in Bangkok of three Australians, Paul Hayward, Warren Fellows and William Sinclair, on drug smuggling charges have been deferred again, this time until January.

Police at Kalgoorlie in Western Australia investigating the deaths of two Aborigines, say a 2 litre tin of duplicating fluid was stolen from school at Aboriginal mission yesterday. Two Aborigines died at the mission yesterday and ten others are being treated in hospital after drinking the fluid.