



AUSTRALIAN CONSULTANTS WIN U.N. CONTRACT

(Statement by Mr. J. McEwen, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry)

An Australian firm had been awarded a large United Nations contract to act as consultants during preparation of a \$A4.6 million master-plan for intensive urban and industrial development of Singapore, Mr. J. McEwen, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, announced today.

The firm, Crooks, Michell, Peacock and Stewart of Chatswood, N.S.W., was believed to be the first Australian group to win a contract of this magnitude and of this type.

Mr. McEwen said the contract, awarded in the face of strong overseas competition, particularly from Europe and North America, highlighted the standing of Australian professional consultants. It underlined the significance of the Government sponsored Mission which recently surveyed prospects for Australian professional consultants in South East Asia and the Middle East.

The number of Australian firms registered for consultancy work with the United Nations and the World Bank had increased rapidly over the last two years and numbered 32 at present. It was hoped confidently that more contracts for work in South East Asia would be won by Australian consultants.

Mr. McEwen said the work associated with the first contract would complement Australia's continuing drive to become one of the major suppliers of goods and services to South East Asia.

Crooks, Michell, Peacock and Stewart would collect and analyse data relevant to all aspects of planning, develop Singapore's planning departments and train personnel to take over comprehensive city planning and conduct extensive surveys. Such surveys would cover community environments, activities, goals, values and economic problems. Traffic and transport studies to enable

effective future development would also be undertaken. The firm would be associated in its work by up to four universities,

- . The University of New South Wales would provide a traffic consultant, Professor R. Blunden, also research facilities at the N.S.W. Institute of Traffic and Highway Research.
- . The University of Sydney would provide two consultants and an urban geographer from its Department of Town and Country Planning.
- . Macquarie and Queensland Universities would provide assistance where required.

Mr. McEwen said most overseas consultants received active support from their Governments in efforts to participate in such projects and the Department of Trade and Industry was prepared also to assist firms interested in such export activity.

Canberra, A.C.T.

30th May, 1967

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