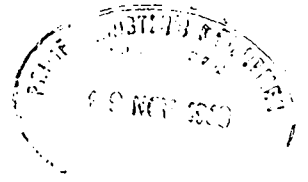


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PM. No. 91 1968

CONTROL OF CORAL SEA ISLANDS

The Governments of Australia and the United Kingdom today exchanged letters in which the British Government recognised Australian control over a number of small islands in the Coral Sea off the East Coast of Australia.

The islands concerned are -

Bird Islet, West Islet and other islands forming part of Wreck Reef.

Cato Island

Herald Beacon Islet and other islands forming part of Mellish Reef

Observatory Cay and other islands forming part of Frederick Reef

Observatory Cay and other islands forming part of Kenn Reef
And the island known as Pocklington Reef.

These are all small uninhabited islands lying between latitudes 10 degrees South and the Tropic of Capricorn and between longitudes 154 degrees and 158 degrees East.

Australia has exercised control over these islands for a number of years and the Exchange of Letters merely confirms that the Queen's Sovereignty over the islands is exercised by the Australian Government and not the British Government.

CANBERRA

8 November 1968