



75/15

PRIME MINISTER

(COMPLAINTS TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL)

The Governor-General has made it known that certain complaints that were directed to him have been referred to me for advice. The complaints concern guidelines and the terms under which the present Government is operating up to the election.

I have already made it plain that I have full confidence in Permanent Heads and that I believe they would not convey to their Departments any request that they believed to be outside the guidelines. But I also believe it appropriate that a procedure be established which will enable me to advise the Governor-General properly concerning complaints or petitions that might be directed to him.

Therefore, such matters as are referred to His Excellency will be referred by me to the Chairman of the Public Service Board, and the Secretary of my Department, who would consult with the Head of the Department concerned. They would report to me and if necessary, I would consult with the Minister and advice would be forwarded to the Governor-General.

I repeat that the undertaking that I have given to the Governor-General (that my Government will act as a Caretaker Government until a general election is held) is to be strictly and scrupulously applied and any doubts that a Minister may have as to conduct in particular circumstances, should be discussed with his Permanent Head, the Chairman of the Public Service Board, or with the Head of my Department. If these doubts remain, no action is to be taken until the matter is raised directly with me as Prime Minister.

19th November, 1975.