



**PRIME MINISTER**

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URANIUM EXPLORATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The advertising campaign against the Federal Government's uranium decision led by the South Australian Premier, Mr Dunstan, has not prevented him from uranium development within his own State.

Mr Dunstan claims that he is opposed to the Federal Government's decision that mining in the Northern Territory should go ahead to provide uranium for peaceful purposes.

However, the facts are that Mr Dunstan has licensed a German company to explore for uranium in South Australia.

The exploration firm is Uranerz (Australia) Pty. Ltd., of 27 Oxford Street, Leederville, W.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of UEBG mbH, a German uranium exploration company which is also prospecting in the United States and Algeria. UEBG mbH is 50 per cent owned by a major West German nuclear electricity generating company, RWE.

The South Australian Government issued Uranerz with two exploration licenses, numbers 349 and 350, on 16 August this year, nine days before the Government made its decisions that development for peaceful nuclear energy production should proceed.

Mr Dunstan has been engaged in discussion with the Atomic Energy Commission about South Australia's proposals for a uranium enrichment plant at Redcliffe for some time.

On 13 October he and officials of the South Australian Department of Economic Development had discussions with representatives of Urenco-Centec, the joint British-German-Dutch consortium formed to develop and build a centrifuge for the enrichment of uranium.

Mr Dunstan's discussions with the Atomic Energy Commission have continued and there have been further exchanges since this meeting with the Urenco-Centec delegation which visited Australia from 10 to 24 October.

Mr Dunstan's actions thus belie his words. His actions are consistent with the Government's approach which is that Australia's uranium reserves should be developed to meet the world's energy needs.

There is one important difference. The Commonwealth has decided to allow development to go ahead in a remote part of the Northern Territory surrounded by an area which is to be declared as one of the world's largest national parks.

Mr Dunstan has issued exploration licences for two areas, both only 30 kilometres from Adelaide. Exploration Licence 349, covering 49 square kilometres is 30 kilometres south of Adelaide. EL 350 of 195 square kilometres is 30 kilometres north of Adelaide.