

from the Press Office

Summary of ABC's 12:30 News

President Carter sets out on his Middle East peace mission, expressing "hope tempered by realism". Meanwhile, the Egyptian Prime Minister called a special cabinet meeting in Cairo to examine America's latest peace proposals. He said that the US proposals were positive, and even though they might require some alteration, the chances for peace were good. In Jerusalem, the Israeli Foreign Minister said a peace treaty with Egypt was now a matter of weeks, not months away, but, he said, a lot would depend on how President Carter fared during his talks with President Sadat.

Canberra: The government says it will not bow to ACTU threats over industrial action over tomorrow's first prosecution by the Industrial Relations Bureau.

Mr Peacock said Australia's offer of troops to Namibia depended on agreement about the safety of the groups.

Australia's balance of payments continued to improve last month. The deficit on current accounts fell to \$95 million below its deficit for a year. Australia had a balance of trade surplus in February of \$158 million, the third monthly rise in a row, and the best result since December 1977. Exports in February were down by \$150 million, but imports also fell by \$180 million. Net capital inflow rose sharply to \$312 million for the month.

Uganda's defence council, the country's highest policy making body has declared its full confidence in Amin by naming him Chief of Staff of the armed forces, effectively giving him day to day control of running the war against an invasion force from Tanzania.

Rhodesia had confirmed its aircraft attacked a group of guerillas inside Zambia last Saturday.

Two hundred mile fishing limit around Australia is likely to be proclaimed next month, Mr Sinclair said.

Mr Staley said that the ABC should be able to provide country viewers with sports coverage that they could not get from commercial channels.

America's space craft has photographed a ring of particles spinning round the Jupiter.

The Ayatollah has again criticised his government urging ministers to abandon all trappings of the west inherited from the past.

The Arab world has been told it faces ^{an energy crisis} by the end of the century unless it acts now to develop other fuel sources.

Seems new secret weapon from the East German Intelligence Service is love - victims are the lonely secretaries of Bonn. West German authorities have launched poster campaign warning that the one word that will open the safe is love. Follows case of German secretary of NATO official. Bonn Government hopes the information campaign it has launched will make secretaries cautious.

---000---

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S "A.M."

In Jerusalem, negotiations on a Middle East peace settlement between the US and Israel have continued throughout the past 24 hours at a "frenzied, confused pace". Reported last minute efforts are still being made to prevent a total collapse of the peace process. If President Carter has to fly home and admit failure in his quest for peace in the Middle East, he then faces severe criticism of his Presidency itself.

American-sponsored defence pact aimed at limiting Soviet influence in the Middle East and Asia appears to have collapsed. Two of the major regional partners in the Alliance, known as Central Treaty Organisation, have announced their withdrawal in the past 48 hours. Last night Pakistan withdrew and the new Government in Iran withdrew.

Heavy law suits taking place against the American chemical manufacturers who produced Agent Orange, the code name given to 245T during the Vietnam war. Biggest case involves \$4,000 million to compensate American Vietnam veterans who were exposed to the chemical. Legal opinion in the U.S. believes the case could apply to Australia.

Representatives of Melbourne's Greek community are assembling in Canberra today to see the Minister for Immigration, Mr. Mackellar, in a last minute bid to stop the deportation of two illegal immigrants. The couple are due to be deported at 3:00 o'clock this afternoon. Reported the case is a touchy one for the Government. Their daughter has been given permission to stay because she was born in Australia. Mr. Hamer has telegraphed the Prime Minister asking for consideration of the case. Interview with one of the delegation hoping to see the Minister for Immigration.

The Aboriginal Land Fund Commission, set up by the Federal Government four years ago, has spent nearly \$5 million on buying land for Aborigines and is looking for more land. Members of the Fund are currently in Western Australia where nearly half the money has been spent. Comes at a time when the Commission has been criticised for outlaying so much to provide land for comparative purchases, especially in the purchase of unprofitable properties. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Chaney, interviewed.

Reported from Moscow this morning that though the struggle between Soviet authorities and the country's small band of human rights activists hasn't been in the headlines since last year's trials, pressure on the activists is as intense as ever.

Salisbury: the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith, has announced that he will now stay on "for the bitter end" despite earlier indications that he would leave the Government and perhaps the country in the event of a black administration coming to power.

Some of the most chilling predictions about the future of nuclear energy are contained in a new book "Nuclear Madness" which is published today. Book written by Australian, Dr. Helen Caldicott. Interviewed.