

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 12:30 pm NEWS

Full transcript of item:

The Federal Government is not changing its position over amendments to industrial law. The Federal Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr. Tony Street, has issued a statement about his talks on the matter last night with the President of the Arbitration Commission, Sir John Moore. Mr. Street's statement said the Federal Government would make no changes to the Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment Bill. Mr. Street said he told Sir John Moore that the object of the consultative procedures was to get the maximum possible consistency in Commission decisions. Sir John had pointed out that the consultative procedures could result in delays in getting decisions and asked whether the requirement to consult might be limited. Mr. Street said he replied that any qualification on the need to consult would obviously carry an increased risk of inconsistency and Sir John had acknowledged this point. The Minister said Sir John had told him of concern within the Arbitration Commission about the autonomy of the Commissioners and asked specifically whether the consultative proposals would enable a Deputy President to direct a Commissioner. Mr. Street said he assured Sir John that Commissioners retained the right to make a final decision on their cases. They would not be subject to direction by a Deputy President nor would their decision be subject to approval by a Deputy President. Sir John Moore had said the requirements would put an extra workload on the Commission and it would require more people if there were not to be delays. Mr. Street said the Government would await advice from the President of the Arbitration Commission on the need for more people. Mr. Street has also rejected a request by the ACTU leader, Mr. Bob Hawke, for further talks on the amendments. Mr. Street said Mr. Hawke had contacted him seeking further consultation before the legislation passed through Parliament.

Legislation will be introduced in the N.S.W. Parliament next week requiring all MPs to declare their pecuniary interests. In Parliament today, the Premier Mr. Wran announced that registers will be set up in both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, in which Members would have to record their financial interests and those of their spouses and dependent children. Failure to comply with the regulations would be regarded as contempt of Parliament, leaving Members open to expulsion.

In a show of American military power, more than 2,000 Marines have begun a month of exercises at the U.S. military base in Cuba.

The Air Force is gearing up for Australia's biggest military airlift since the Cyclone Tracy relief effort to Darwin. It is part of Kangaroo III, the military exercise in Queensland.

South Korea's second biggest city has been put under emergency martial law after students took part in one of the biggest anti-government demonstrations in 19 years.

The front line States confronting Zimbabwe Rhodesia have blamed Britain for the hold-up in the constitutional conference in London. The Presidents of Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique levelled the blame after a meeting. A statement said the Patriotic Front guerillas were correct in seeking assurances that money used to compensate white farmers who might lose their land in an independent Zimbabwe should not come from the pockets of the people there. It also said that while the Presidents were happy about progress in the London talks no workable solution could possibly emerge from negotiations which continued to exclude the Patriotic Front.

A Federal Judge in Washington has ruled that President Carter had no authority on his own to end the mutual defence treaty with Taiwan. Judge Oliver Gash said the President, before breaking a defence treaty must gain approval from either two thirds of the Senate or a majority of both Houses of Congress.

Two prominent East German dissidents have arrived in West Germany after their release from prison last week under an amnesty to mark East Germany's 30th anniversary.

Japan cancelled more than 100 domestic air services today as a typhoon rolled across the Pacific towards Japan.

Part of Australia's most famous fence is to be electrified. The Queensland Land Minister told State Parliament today he had approved a pilot scheme to electrify 68 kms of the main Dingo Barrier Fence which extends hundreds of kilometres across Queensland.