

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S "A.M."

Iran's humiliation of the United States continues. Former U.S. Attorney-General, Ramsey Clark, heading for Tehran to negotiate the release of the 60 American hostages has been ordered to stay in Athens until the Iranian authorities clarify whether they will talk to them or not. The Ayatollah Khomeini has stated there will be no talks without the Shah being returned to Iran.

Staff at the Australian Embassy in Tehran have been told to keep a low profile.

One of the countries most concerned about the possibility of the Ayatollah using oil diplomacy is Japan, which relies heavily on Iranian oil. To make the situation worse, Japan has large investments in Iran.

In Queensland, the unions and the State Government look set for a head-on confrontation. On the one hand, there is the Government with its tough new Essential Services Legislation and on the other the unions, who held a mass meeting in Brisbane yesterday pledging to close the State down if the laws are used. President of the Trades and Labour Council in Queensland interviewed.

According to the British Government, the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia peace talks in London are very close to settlement. As a result it has been trying to rush through Parliament the necessary legislation for a transitional government in Salisbury. After nine weeks of talks, the British Government now thinks it is close to settling its last major colonial problem, the Government has now rushed legislation into the Parliament to give Zimbabwe-Rhodesia if the peace talks succeed. They have decided from next week to lift a small section of the sanctions against the breakaway colony.

Senator Edward Kennedy has formally declared his candidacy for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination.

In a report to the Minister for Health, Mr. Hunt, the National Health and Medical Research Council has made it clear that total lead intake by Australians are producing significant adverse health effects. It is understood that the Council believes that lead levels in petrol should continue to be phased down. The Chairman of the Council, Dr. William Langsford, interviewed.