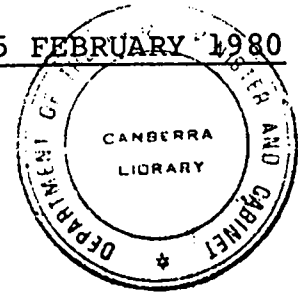


PRIME MINISTER

15 FEBRUARY 1980

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF 12.30 NEWS

A series of bombs in Rhodesia's capital, Salisbury, has killed at least 2 people and damaged a church and a luxury hotel. In the elections so far the Rhodesian Front Party, led by Mr Smith, appears headed for a clean sweep for the 20 seats reserved for white voters. The rest of the 100 seats in the new Parliament will be contested by black candidates at the end of this month.

The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal is to be given power to conduct a much wider range of inquiries than the present radio and television license renewal hearings. The Minister for Post and Telecommunications, Mr Staley, said today the Broadcasting and Television Act would be amended to enable the Tribunal to conduct general public enquiries. Mr Staley said this was a direct result from the previous round of license renewal hearings which did not satisfy anyone.

Mr Staley

Most people felt that they weren't getting a fair crack of the whip, and we believe that this new sort of inquiry will enable all the issues which are general issues as far as the public and the industry are concerned to be properly and fully canvassed and taken into account before the Tribunal makes final decisions on policies.

Mr Staley said that in future people attending the inquiries would be able to comment on whether services were adequate, in a particular region. He said the new inquiry is to be more informal than license renewal hearings, could explore the broadcasting needs of particular communities. Where possible the general inquiries would precede license hearings.

The Federal Government has approved substantial increases in overseas airfares and freight charges for airlines flying out of Australia to the United States and Canada. The increases announced by Federal transport Minister, Mr Hunt, will come into effect on March 1. Mr Hunt said the Government approved the increases to counter rises in aviation fuel costs. More from Pat Macquire in Canberra. Under the new charges, the first class and economy fare from Australia to the United States will increase by 12.5%, while promotional fares such as Apex and Budget will rise by 7.5%. Between Australia and Canada, the first class and economy fare will go up by 11% and promotional fares 6%. On both routes freight rates will increase by 9.5%. Mr Hunt said the increases would not affect passengers who purchase their tickets before midnight tonight, meaning people who bought tickets under the advanced purchase apex system would not be required to pay the extra charges. The increase is the fourth price over the Pacific route since the introduction of the Apex and Budget fares 12 months ago. Bob Macquire, Canberra.

The President of the United States Olympic Committee says it will probably support President Carter's call for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Mr Robert Caines said the Committee's decision will be made at a meeting in April, 3 months before the Games are scheduled to begin. President Carter has repeated that unless the Soviet Union withdraws its troops from Afghanistan by February 20, neither he nor the American Congress nor the American people would support sending an Olympic team to Moscow. In other moves the Malaysian Government has reaffirmed that

it will not send a team to Moscow and the city of London has officially abandoned its plan to stage the 1988 Games. Meanwhile, a spokesman for British athletes has criticised Mrs Thatcher's advice that the athletes should boycott the Olympics. The Secretary of the International Athletes Club, Derek Johnson, who won a silver medal in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, said he would advise his Committee to support participation in the Olympics.

Passengers booked on Russian cruise ships after 31 May, will have to cancel their bookings as a result of the Federal Governments ban on Russian crew ships entering Australian Ports. The Federal Minister for Transport, Mr Hunt, announced the ban on the Soviet cruise ships last night. A director of Russian CTC line said today in Sydney that about 100 people were booked on cruises after 31 May.

The Federal Treasurer, Mr Howard, has declined to comment on higher interest rates announced today by the ANZ Banking Group. The Treasurer told a Liberal Party function in Brisbane it was not realistic or helpful for him to generalise or speculate on the future of interest rates in Australia. The ANZ Bank says interest from overdrafts of less than 100,000 dollars will rise by  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  from the beginning of next month.

Storemen and Packers employed by Melbourne Wool brokers today voted to continue their strike in protest against the reduction of their pay rise from \$15.90 to \$8.

A cyclone watch is now in effect in the North-west of Western Australia for tropical cyclone Enid which developed early today.

The 11 people accused of complicity in a murder that's become known as the case of the Handlers Corpse will appear in an English court on May 19.

Three dutchmen who operated a secret laboratory in a Scottish village to produce millions of amphetamine tablets have been jailed for 12 years.

The report of the inquiry into the viability of the Christmas Island Phosphate Industry is expected to be tabled in Federal Parliament next week.