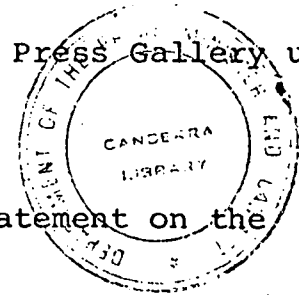


From the Press Office

The following statements were released to the Press Gallery up to 6.00 pm tonight:

GOVERNMENT

1. The Minister for Defence, Mr. Killen's statement on the acquisition of a fourth FFG.
2. The Minister for Transport, Mr. Hunt and the Victorian Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr. Thompson said a Commonwealth-State study to measure the incidence of drugs in drivers and pedestrians killed in road accidents in Victoria will begin shortly.
3. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources Mr. Anthony flew early today 160 km from Abu Dhabi to Das Island, in the Arabian Gulf, to see a three million tons a liquefied natural gas production operation.
4. The Minister for Transport, Mr. Hunt today announced the introduction of a new and beneficial air fares package between Australia and Greece as a result of restructuring of fares on that route.
5. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Chaney said in Canberra today that the report of the National Trachoma and Eye Health Programme would provide valuable assistance to the Government in determining what needed to be done to improve its Aboriginal health programmes.
6. The Treasurer, Mr. Howard said the Government has recently been approached regarding the establishment of a new bank within existing banking policy.
7. The Department of Defence said the total strength of the Permanent Defence Force was 70,666 at the end of February 1980 compared with 70,564 at the end of January 1980.
8. The Department of Defence advised the army is starting a long range project to replace its light armoured fighting vehicles in the mid 1990s.
9. The Department of Defence said a contingent of 157 United States soldiers from Hawaii arrived in Brisbane this morning (1 April) to take part in Exercise Close Bond Five.
10. The Acting Minister for Trade and Resources, Mr. Nixon welcomed today's decision of the International Sugar Council that for the remainder of the term of the International Sugar Agreement members' export quotas would be adjusted on the basis of recent actual export performance.
11. Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in presenting the Report of the Australian National Observer Group to the 1980 Rhodesian election.
12. Statement on ASEAN by Senator Scott on the outcome of his recent three week visit to the five member countries of ASEAN.



13. The Minister for Special Trade Representations, Senator Scott has been re-endorsed by the Central Council of the NSW National Country Party to contest this year's half Senate election.
14. The Minister for Health, Mr. MacKellar recommends better health amenities and services as a prerequisite to improved eye health of Aboriginals.
15. An analysis of the Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the proposed construction of a Defence Force Academy by the Minister for Defence, Mr. Killen.
16. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources Mr. Anthony said the visit I have just made to four Arabian Peninsula countries with a team of senior representatives of Australian business, industry, health services and universities has reinforced the view I formed on a similar visit a year ago that Australia is missing out on many trading opportunities in the Middle East.
17. The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs said recent media reports which indicated that deportee Ivan Ceskovic faced death when he returned to Yugoslavia have proved to be unfounded.
18. Senator Jessop announced today that the Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment was soon to hear evidence on Tasmania's contribution to Australian Marine Science.
19. The Attorney-General Senator Durack today announced a joint agreement with the NSW Government to extend the Sydney Hilton Hotel bomb outrage reward of \$100,00 for another two years.
20. The Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, Mr. Viner said today the growth in the number of people employed in Australia in the past year of 155,200 was the highest annual growth since May 1974.
21. The Department of Primary Industry advised that the Director of the Australian Bureau of Animal Health, Mr. Bill Gee announced today that agreement had been reached between State Governments on guidelines for uniform brucellosis testing requirements for mainland cattle moving interstate.
22. The Minister for Post and Telecommunications, Mr. Staley announced appointments to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal and the Independent and Multicultural Broadcasting Corporation.
23. The Department of Defence said the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal N.P. McNamara will visit New Zealand from 18 April to 23 April.
24. The Department of Defence said Australian and American companies are to combine to produce a new sonar system for the RAN.

OPPOSITION

1. Senator Gietzelt, Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs, called for uniform legislation to limit the amount of packaging on products.
2. Senator Grimes, Shadow Minister for Social Security said the latest report to document social need and inadequacy of welfare provision in this country, the first report of the National Consultative Council on Social Welfare, was in the possession of the Minister for Social Security for six months before she tabled it yesterday in the Senate.
3. Senator Chipp, Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Democrats today sent a cable to President Carter asking him to intercede in the case of the Noonkanbah dispute.
4. Mr. Stewart West, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, said the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program Report findings are a damning indictment of the Federal Government health care delivery to Aborigines.
5. Letter from Mr. Keating, Shadow Minister for Minerals and Energy to Senator Carrick which stated that he was amazed to discover that Senator Carrick required his Department to engage in political activity by having a Minute prepared on the Australian Labor Party's oil pricing policy, a report on which was published in today's Financial Review.
6. Mr. Hurford, Shadow Minister for Industry and Commerce said he personally found it strange that the government is considering allowing another trading bank so soon after being responsible for the closure of the Bank of Adelaide.
7. Mr. Willis, Labor spokesman of Economic Affairs said the Opposition views the proposals for the establishment of a new bank in Australia with reservations.
8. Senator Mason, Deputy Leader of the Australian Democrats said the Democrats continued a campaign in Federal Parliament today to persuade the Government to devote more attention and money to an effective civil defence programme in the event of nuclear attack.
9. Senator Grimes, Shadow Minister for Social Security said the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program Report of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists is a scathing indictment of our treatment of Aborigines.

GENERAL

1. The Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists released the first report of National Trachoma and Eye Health Program - call for action to eradicate eye disease amongst Aborigines.
2. The Office of the Commissioner for Community Relations said a new racist campaign launched in the City of Sydney has resorted to fraudulent misrepresentation of the Commissioner and the Office of Community Relations.
3. The Confederation of Australian Industry said "closer trans-Tasman relations must not have the effect of discriminating against or disadvantaging Australia's other near neighbours".

4. ACOA said the ACT Branch Secretary of the ACOA Mr. Phil O'Brien said today that there was an urgent need for the Government and the Public Service Board to allow the sections of the CERR Act relating to voluntary early retirement to be available to public servants without further delay.

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