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PRIME MINISTER

WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH, 1981

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 12:30 pm NEWS

The latest spy story in the London Daily Mail serial on spying says a former British Labour Party Chairman and MP, Mr Driberg.(?) was a double agent, working for the KGB and MI 5. The report says he gave details of the personal and political activities of his parliamentary colleagues to both the KGB and MI 5. He was apparently feeding information from the time he entered Parliament in 1942 to his retirement in 1974, and afterwards when he became a member of the House of Lords. He died in 1976. The Daily Mail story says Mr Driberg was a well known homosexual repeatedly caught either procuring or committing a homosexual act in public places. But it is claimed that British intelligence officials put a mantle of protection around him. The report also says that both the MI5 and the KGB knew he was working for the other side and sought to use him for their own ends.

The Prime Minister is to be briefed by officials on the Daily Mail report that a former head of MI 5, Sir Roger Hollis, may have been a Soviet spy.

The Foreign Affairs Minister says the stand by the Opposition leader on the B52s agreement with the United States indicates a capitulation to the ALP's extreme left. He also says Mr Hayden's stand calls into question the Opposition leader's competence in foreign relations. Mr Hayden said yesterday that the B52 agreement did not contain adequate safeguards, and that a Labor government would renegotiate it to rule out any possibility of the bombers carrying nuclear warheads over Australian soil. In a statement in Canberra this morning, Mr Street said Mr Hayden had made blatantly incorrect assertions about the agreement. The word of Australia's principle ally had been called into question. Mr Street said Mr Hayden had made careless assertions relating to the US undertaking that it would notify Australia of any change in the role of its B52s staging through Darwin, and to assert there was no formal agreement was totally untrue. He said, Mr Hayden, through his statement, had rejected a bi-partisan approach to a matter fundamental to Australia's security.

The Polish parliament is to hold a special session on Monday to discuss the threat of a national strike. The session was announced after Solidarity said a four hour warning strike on Friday would be followed by an indefinite stoppage next Tuesday. The Communist Party secretary called the move an invitation to self destruction, and Polish television said parliament was being convened because of the gravity of the situation.

Leaders of the 10 EEC countries have ended their summit meeting with a warning that the Polish people must be allowed to deal with their problems without outside interference. The West German Foreign Minister reported to the summit on his recent visit to Poland and urged his partners to continue to help the Poles.

Immigration officials in Barbados say it is only a matter of hours before a decision is made on the future of Ronald Biggs. His finger prints and other documents are being sent from Britain.

The cost of food fell in Australia last month thanks to a significant drop in the price of fresh fruit. The Bureau of Statistics estimates that the cost of food by $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% during the month. It is the first drop in the monthly food index since August 1979 when the decrease was .6 of 1%.

Africa's senior sports administrator, Mr Ordia, in Canberra for talks with the Prime Minister this morning, has spoken with new optimism of the planned Springbok of New Zealand might be cancelled. Mr Ordia had separate discussions at Parliament House with Mr Fraser and Mr Street. As Barry Cassidy reports, they spoke of the threat of an African boycott of the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane if the rugby tour of New Zealand went ahead.

Barry Cassidy

The Prime Minister and Mr Ordia agreed on one thing that any danger to the Commonwealth Games arose from events over which Australia had not direct control. In other words the Springbok tour of New Zealand. But today after the talks Mr Ordia refused to accept the tour as a fait accompli. So had he been given new information?

Mr Ordia

No, I am very optimistic.

Question

What do you base your message on sir?

Mr Ordia

Human conscience. Common sense.

Barry Cassidy

If Mr Ordia's optimism proves false would Australia consider banning New Zealand from the Commonwealth Games and save a black African boycott?

Mr Fraser

I think that that is jumping far too far down a tank. I think save the Games as though a boycott of the Games is imminent and that is not the position.

The Reagan administration plans to double economic aid to El Salvador this year to more than \$126 million. The extra spending is to show an expression of faith in the Government of El Salvador. El Salvador is also getting more than \$35 million in military aid and the economic package would make it by far the biggest recipient of American aid in Latin America.

The American Secretary of State, Mr Haig, has asked Congress for money to safeguard diplomats and safeguard classified information at American Embassies.

Telecom officials are holding talks with union representatives in Sydney today in attempt to resolve a dispute which is disrupting STD and international calls. A telecom spokesman said about 50 members of the telecommunications employees association last week imposed industrial bans on repairing equipment at the Haymarket exchange after a dispute over shift allocations. Services are disrupted to the extent of 30% of its usual capacity.