



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER, 1981

SUPPLIES FOR ANGURUGU

RAAF aircraft will fly out of Darwin today to transport essential food and medical supplies to the Angurugu Aboriginal settlement on Groote Eylandt.

The Government has agreed to the urgent request for assistance by the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Government.

The people of Angurugu have been cut off by the current Marine Engineers dispute. Barges which normally deliver supplies to the island have been held by union action at Weipa and Cairns.

Despite three requests, the last of these this morning, the union has refused to release the barge from Weipa which could have delivered these essential supplies within 28 hours.

The situation at Angurugu has been described as desperate and local medical personnel say there is a real danger for community health. About 3,500 kilograms of essential supplies including baby food will be taken to Angurugu.

The Government is not prepared to allow the welfare of this isolated community to be put in jeopardy by industrial disputation.