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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

11 January 1983

Attached are copies of the letters sent today by the Prime Minister to State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.

THE HON. N. WRAN, QC, MLA  
PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FROM: R.J.L. HAWKE

UNCLASSIFIED  
IMMEDIATE

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DEAR PREMIER

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AND METHOD OF FIXATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN THE COMMUNITY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN RECENT TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THOSE INCREASES, THEY ARE NOT EASILY RECONCILED WITH THE MUCH LOWER INCREASES RECEIVED BY WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LAST NATIONAL WAGE CASE AND THE OVER-RIDING NEED FOR RESTRAINT PARTICULARLY BY COMMUNITY LEADERS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT LARGER THAN NORMAL INCREASES ARE BEING PAID AFTER SOMETIMES SUBSTANTIAL PERIODS OF RESTRAINT IN PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES. HOWEVER, IF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES ARE TO BE MAINTAINED IN A POSITION BROADLY COMPARABLE WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY STANDARDS THE NEED FOR CATCH-UP INCREASES INEVITABLY ARISES WITH FAMILIAR POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

TO MY MIND THE STRAIN THIS PLACES ON THE CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF WAGE FIXATION IS REGRETTABLE AND AVOIDABLE. THE COMMONWEALTH CONSIDERS THAT A SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES MOVE ON A COMPARABLE BASIS TO WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY BOTH WITH RESPECT TO QUANTUM AND TO TIMING COULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD BE MANIFESTLY FAIR AND EQUITABLE.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION AS TO WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TRIBUNALS DETERMINING PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IN YOUR STATE. I NOTE THAT AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL EXISTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT THE TRIBUNAL IN ITS DETERMINATIONS IS REQUIRED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND DECISIONS OF THE RELEVANT STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL.

FOR ITS PART THE COMMONWEALTH IS EXAMINING THE MACHINERY APPLYING TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

YOURS SINCERELY

R.J.L. HAWKE

THE HON. J. CAIN, M.L.A.  
PREMIER OF VICTORIA

FROM: R.J.L. HAWKE

UNCLASSIFIED  
IMEDIATE  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
PRIORITY

DEAR PREMIER

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AND METHOD OF FIXATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN THE COMMUNITY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN RECENT TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THOSE INCREASES, THEY ARE NOT EASILY RECONCILED WITH THE MUCH LOWER INCREASES RECEIVED BY WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LAST NATIONAL WAGE CASE AND THE OVER-RIDING NEED FOR RESTRAINT PARTICULARLY BY COMMUNITY LEADERS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT LARGER THAN NORMAL INCREASES ARE BEING PAID AFTER SOMETIMES SUBSTANTIAL PERIODS OF RESTRAINT IN PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES. HOWEVER, IF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES ARE TO BE MAINTAINED IN A POSITION BROADLY COMPARABLE WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY STANDARDS THE NEED FOR CATCH-UP INCREASES INEVITABLY ARISES WITH FAMILIAR POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

TO MY MIND THE STRAIN THIS PLACES ON THE CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF WAGE FIXATION IS REGRETTABLE AND AVOIDABLE. THE COMMONWEALTH CONSIDERS THAT A SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES MOVE ON A COMPARABLE BASIS TO WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY BOTH WITH RESPECT TO QUANTUM AND TO TIMING COULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD BE MANIFESTLY FAIR AND EQUITABLE.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION AS TO WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TRIBUNALS DETERMINING PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IN YOUR STATE. I NOTE THAT PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES IN VICTORIA ARE TIED TO THOSE OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS. YOU MAY CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE, HOWEVER, THAT EARLY MEASURES BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL. CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO CONSTITUTING THE TRIBUNAL. IN ANY EVENT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ENSURE THAT THE TRIBUNAL IN ITS DETERMINATIONS IS REQUIRED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND DECISIONS OF THE RELEVANT STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL.

FOR ITS PART THE COMMONWEALTH IS EXAMINING THE MACHINERY APPLYING TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

YOURS SINCERELY

R.J.L. HAWKE

THE HON. J.C. BANNON  
PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FM:  
THE PRIME MINISTER

UNCLASSIFIED  
IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~

DRAFT LETTER TO THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DEAR PREMIER

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AND METHOD OF FIXATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN THE COMMUNITY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN RECENT TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THOSE INCREASES, THEY ARE NOT EASILY RECONCILED WITH THE MUCH LOWER INCREASES RECEIVED BY WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LAST NATIONAL WAGE CASE AND THE OVER-RIDING NEED FOR RESTRAINT PARTICULARLY BY COMMUNITY LEADERS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT LARGER THAN NORMAL INCREASES ARE BEING PAID AFTER SOMETIMES SUBSTANTIAL PERIODS OF RESTRAINT IN PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES. HOWEVER, IF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES ARE TO BE MAINTAINED IN A POSITION BROADLY COMPARABLE WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY STANDARDS THE NEED FOR CATCH-UP INCREASES INEVITABLY ARISES WITH FAMILIAR POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

TO MY MIND THE STRAIN THIS PLACES ON THE CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF WAGE FIXATION IS REGRETTABLE AND AVOIDABLE. THE COMMONWEALTH CONSIDERS THAT A SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES MOVE ON A COMPARABLE BASIS TO WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY BOTH WITH RESPECT TO QUANTUM AND TO TIMING COULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD BE MANIFESTLY FAIR AND EQUITABLE.

ONE APPROACH WOULD BE TO MAKE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES TRIBUNAL TO HAVE REGARD TO THE DECISIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION. IN RELATION TO THE MOST RECENT INCREASES IN YOUR STATE, I AM SUGGESTING THAT A 4.3% PER CENT INTERIM INCREASE BE GRANTED AND THAT ANY FURTHER INCREASE BE CONSIDERED BY THE TRIBUNAL IN THE LIGHT OF A NEW STATUTORY REQUIREMENT TO HAVE REGARD TO THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION'S PRINCIPLES.

FOR ITS PART THE COMMONWEALTH IS EXAMINING THE MACHINERY APPLYING TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

YOURS SINCERELY

R. J. L. HAWKE

10.  
THE HON. BRIAN BURKE, MLA  
PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FROM: R.J.L. HAWKE

UNCLASSIFIED  
IMMEDIATE

DEAR PREMIER

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AND METHOD OF FIXATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN THE COMMUNITY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN RECENT TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THOSE INCREASES, THEY ARE NOT EASILY RECONCILED WITH THE MUCH LOWER INCREASES RECEIVED BY WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LAST NATIONAL WAGE CASE AND THE OVER-RIDING NEED FOR RESTRAINT PARTICULARLY BY COMMUNITY LEADERS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT LARGER THAN NORMAL INCREASES ARE BEING PAID AFTER SOMETIMES SUBSTANTIAL PERIODS OF RESTRAINT IN PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES. HOWEVER, IF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES ARE TO BE MAINTAINED IN A POSITION BROADLY COMPARABLE WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY STANDARDS THE NEED FOR CATCH-UP INCREASES INEVITABLY ARISES WITH FAMILIAR POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

TO MY MIND THE STRAIN THIS PLACES ON THE CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF WAGE FIXATION IS REGRETTABLE AND AVOIDABLE. THE COMMONWEALTH CONSIDERS THAT A SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES MOVE ON A COMPARABLE BASIS TO WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY BOTH WITH RESPECT TO QUANTUM AND TO TIMING COULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD BE MANIFESTLY FAIR AND EQUITABLE.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION AS TO WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TRIBUNALS DETERMINING PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IN YOUR STATE. I NOTE THAT AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL EXISTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT THE TRIBUNAL IN ITS DETERMINATIONS IS REQUIRED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND DECISIONS OF THE RELEVANT STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL.

FOR ITS PART THE COMMONWEALTH IS EXAMINING THE MACHINERY APPLYING TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

YOURS SINCERELY

R.J.L. HAWKE

THE HON. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN, M.L.A.  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

FROM: R.J.L. HAWKE

UNCLASSIFIED  
PRIORITY

DEAR PREMIER

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AND METHOD OF FIXATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN THE COMMUNITY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN RECENT TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THOSE INCREASES, THEY ARE NOT EASILY RECONCILED WITH THE MUCH LOWER INCREASES RECEIVED BY WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LAST NATIONAL WAGE CASE AND THE OVER-RIDING NEED FOR RESTRAINT PARTICULARLY BY COMMUNITY LEADERS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT LARGER THAN NORMAL INCREASES ARE BEING PAID AFTER SOMETIMES SUBSTANTIAL PERIODS OF RESTRAINT IN PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES. HOWEVER, IF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES ARE TO BE MAINTAINED IN A POSITION BROADLY COMPARABLE WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY STANDARDS THE NEED FOR CATCH-UP INCREASES INEVITABLY ARISES WITH FAMILIAR POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

TO MY MIND THE STRAIN THIS PLACES ON THE CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF WAGE FIXATION IS REGRETTABLE AND AVOIDABLE. THE COMMONWEALTH CONSIDERS THAT A SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES MOVE ON A COMPARABLE BASIS TO WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY BOTH WITH RESPECT TO QUANTUM AND TO TIMING COULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD BE MANIFESTLY FAIR AND EQUITABLE.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION AS TO WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TRIBUNALS DETERMINING PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IN YOUR STATE. I NOTE THAT PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES IN QUEENSLAND ARE FIXED TO A PUBLIC SERVICE SALARY LEVEL. YOU MAY CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE, HOWEVER, THAT EARLY MEASURES BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL. CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO CONSTITUTING THE TRIBUNAL BY A MEMBER OR MEMBERS OF THE STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL. IN ANY EVENT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ENSURE THAT THE TRIBUNAL IN ITS DETERMINATIONS IS REQUIRED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND DECISIONS OF THE RELEVANT STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL.

FOR ITS PART THE COMMONWEALTH IS EXAMINING THE MACHINERY APPLYING TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

YOURS SINCERELY

R.J.L. HAWKE

TO:  
THE HON. R.T. GRAY  
PREMIER OF TASMANIA

FM:  
PRIME MINISTER

UNCLASSIFIED  
IMMEDIATE

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PREMIER OF TASMANIA

DEAR PREMIER

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AND METHOD OF FIXATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN THE COMMUNITY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN RECENT TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THOSE INCREASES, THEY ARE ROCEEASILY RECONCILED WITH THE MUCH LOWER INCREASES RECEOVEDIVED RECEIVED

BY WAGE ANDSALARY EARNERS GENERALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LAST NATIONAL WAGE CASE AND THE OVER-RIDING NEED FOR RESTRAINT PARTICULARLY BY COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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IN RELATION TO THE MOST RECENT INCREASES IN YOUR STATE, I AM SUGGESTING THAT A 4.3 PER CENT INTERIM INCREASE BE GRANTED AND THAT ANY FURTHER INCREASE BE CONSIDERED BY THE TRIBUNAL IN THE LIGHT OF ITS STATUTORY REQUIREMENT TO BHAVE REGARD TO THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION'S PRINCIPLES.

FOR ITS PART THE COMMONWEALTH IS EXAMINING THE MACHINERY APPLYING TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

YOURS SINCERELY

THE HON. PAUL EVERINGHAM, MLA  
CHIEF MINISTER OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

FROM: R.J.L. HAWKE

UNCLASSIFIED  
IMMEDIATE

DEAR CHIEF MINISTER

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AND METHOD OF FIXATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN THE COMMUNITY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN RECENT TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THOSE INCREASES, THEY ARE NOT EASILY RECONCILED WITH THE MUCH LOWER INCREASES RECEIVED BY WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LAST NATIONAL WAGE CASE AND THE OVER-RIDING NEED FOR RESTRAINT PARTICULARLY BY COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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TO MY MIND THE STRAIN THIS PLACES ON THE CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF WAGE FIXATION IS REGRETTABLE AND AVOIDABLE. THE COMMONWEALTH CONSIDERS THAT A SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES MOVE ON A COMPARABLE BASIS TO WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GENERALLY BOTH WITH RESPECT TO QUANTUM AND TO TIMING COULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD BE MANIFESTLY FAIR AND EQUITABLE.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION AS TO WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TRIBUNALS DETERMINING PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IN YOUR STATE. I NOTE THAT A REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL EXISTS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT THE TRIBUNAL IN ITS DETERMINATIONS IS REQUIRED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND DECISIONS OF THE RELEVANT STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL.

FOR ITS PART THE COMMONWEALTH IS EXAMINING THE MACHINERY APPLYING TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS.

YOURS SINCERELY

R.J.L. HAWKE