



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. P.J. KEATING, MP
MR GREGORY SYMONS

In the light of today's reports of Mr Gregory Symons' alleged financial status I have asked Senator Richardson to provide me with a comprehensive report on his involvement with this matter and provide it to me by Monday.

I continue to accept the Senator's assurances that he sought and received advice from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he would not be behaving improperly to contact Marshall Islands officials and that he sought no more than to enquire as to the possibility of Mr Symons returning to Australia to collect documents and prepare his legal defence.

However, in the light of today's reports I believe the public interest would be best served if a full report of these matters is provided by the Senator to make clear that he has behaved in accordance with his Ministerial responsibilities.

Further, I understand that Senator Kerry Sibraa sent a letter last November through normal channels to the Australian Embassy in Washington. That letter requested assistance in arranging, where possible, meetings for Mr Symons with appropriate US Government officials and elected representatives.

I believe that given the publicity surrounding this episode a report from Senator Sibraa is also warranted.

While I am not in a position to require Senator Sibraa to furnish me with a report he has agreed to do so, also by Monday.

He has told me he intends to report to the Senate on the same issue on its first day of sitting.

CANBERRA
May 13, 1992



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA

15 May 1992

The Hon P J Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

As I agreed in my discussions with you please find attached my report concerning my involvement with Mr Greg Symons.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry W. Sibraa

REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON MATTERS RELATING TO MR GREG SYMONS BY SENATOR KERRY SIBRAA, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

On the 12th November 1991 I was contacted by Senator Graham Richardson who asked me whether I could meet a Mr Greg Symons, who he hoped I may be able to help with some contacts in Washington for his forthcoming business trip. As I was free at the time, I agreed. Senator Richardson brought Mr Symons around to my office, introduced us and left.

We exchanged pleasantries for a few minutes and when he mentioned the general nature of his business I asked my Senior Adviser, Mr Fred Peppinck, to join us. Mr Symons told Mr Peppinck and myself that he was an Adviser to the President of the Marshall Islands, and that he had a brief from the Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands to discuss business migration to the Marshall Islands when he was in Washington. He had with him a pile of documentation, some of which he showed us. The nature of these documents was impressive and confirmed that he had been given the highest level of authority to negotiate on behalf of the Marshall Islands Government. In particular, he produced a letter from the Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands and the Minister of Resources and Development. He said that he had no contacts in Washington and he wanted to contact either officials or Congressmen who had an expertise on Pacific matters.

Mr Peppinck suggested that the best way to assist would be for him to speak with Mr Chris Lamb, Congressional Liaison Officer in the Australian Embassy in Washington. We were in frequent contact with Mr Lamb over the matter of internships for Parliament House, and Mr Peppinck said that next time he was speaking with Mr Lamb he would mention Mr Symons visit. Mr Symons said that that would be helpful, and asked that I also write to Mr Lamb. I said that I would do so.

The next day (November 13) Mr Peppinck had cause to telephone Mr Lamb in Washington, and as promised, mentioned Mr Symons visit. Mr Lamb said that he would be prepared to meet with Mr Symons in Washington and see if he could assist him.

Mr Peppinck then telephoned Mr Symons to let him know of this conversation, and gave him Mr Lamb's telephone number so that he could ring and arrange an appointment.

As had been requested by Mr Symons, a letter was drafted which was based upon the information provided by Mr Symons at the meeting and then again to Mr Peppinck.

The letter was not a reference. I did only that which I promised to do, that is, arrange a meeting through the normal channels. I had no reason to doubt his bona fides. I did not approach any member of the US Government or any other person on his behalf.

On the morning of the 20th November, upon my arrival back in my Parliament House office, the letter was given to me to sign along with other routine items that

had accumulated since the preceding Friday.

I signed the letter and it was faxed to Mr Lamb the same day.

From that point on there was no further contact between myself or my office and any of the parties involved.

I was not contacted by Senator Richardson to see whether I had been of any assistance, I was not contacted by the Department of Foreign Affairs, nor Mr Lamb, nor was there any further contact with Mr Symons. Because of my absence from the country it was not until Question Time on Monday 4 May 1992 that I became aware that Senator Richardson's association with Mr Symons was being questioned. I recalled having met him at some stage, but thought no more of it.

The question to the Foreign Minister at Question Time on Thursday 7 May concerning "the nature of any dealings between Senator Richardson's friend, Mr Greg Symons, and the Australian Embassy or consulates in the United States of America", prompted me to ask my office whether we had done anything for Mr Symons as a result of my having met him. My staff began checking immediately.

That afternoon and evening was a very busy one. After question time I had guests to meet, then various meetings, the 9th Anniversary of the Opening of the Parliament House Reception at which I had to speak, and a private dinner in my suite. I left Canberra early the following (Friday) morning.

Late Friday afternoon Mr Peppinck contacted me to let me know that a letter from myself to Mr Lamb had been located, and a copy of it was sent to me the following Saturday morning.

My reaction to reading the letter I had signed was that it was something I do all the time, however in retrospect, and with the benefit of hindsight I believe it may have been worded more carefully. The letters he brought with him convinced both myself and my Senior Adviser that he was genuine. As said previously, the contents of my letter were as told to myself and Mr Peppinck, and I had no reason to doubt Mr Symons' credentials.

I might add, had a Senior Opposition Senator asked me to do so, I would have done exactly the same.

This is the first time I have ever provided any assistance to Mr Symons, and it consisted of simply referring him to an Australian Government official.



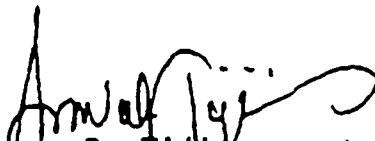
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
AJAJIRO, MARSHALL ISLANDS 96961

25 October 1991

This letter confirms that Mr. Greg Symons and Mr. Paul Finch are appointed as consultants to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United States of America for the purpose of advising and negotiating with representatives of the United States on the clarification of and amendments to the Compact of Free Association. This appointment is solely for the purpose of the establishment of a Business Migration Program in the Marshall Islands, whereby investors granted citizenship in the Marshall Islands would receive no less favorable treatment than native-born citizens of the Republic for the purposes of entering into the United States of America.

Mr. Finch and Mr. Symons shall at all times consult with and be responsible to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador, and are not authorized to conclude any agreement or to bind the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



Tom D. Rijnber
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

telephone: 3181

telex: 0427 FMW AFS

fax: 692 3635 & 692 3649



Office of the Cabinet
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
P.O. Box 2
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

June 28, 1991

Mr. Gregory B. Symons
Managing Director
GBSI International (Hong Kong) Limited
9th Floor, 18 Ice House Street
Hong Kong Central

Dear Mr. Symons

We refer to your project to establish a Technology Park in the Republic of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, supported by the Business Migration Investment Trust to be known as the Marshall Islands Investment Trust ("the Trust"). The trust would be responsible for the marketing, development and management of the Technology Park including value added and transshipment activities and a University Study Centre known as "UNIPAC International".

As you know the Republic of the Marshall Islands Revised Code allows the grant of citizenship to a "class of persons" where there is a substantial benefit deemed to accrue to the Marshall Islands economy.

We recognize that the development of a technology park would have benefits for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the investors may apply for citizenship pursuant to the provisions of the Code.

The following program for the marketing, development, financing and management will be supported by the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, subject to formal agreements incorporating the concepts below, and subject to the formal agreements the parties agree that they will work together to implement the same:

1. Your company is to establish the Trust and representative offices in Sydney and Hong Kong to market the project and undertake the development financing and management of the project. Such offices will support the work of the Trust and its representatives.



Mr. Gregory B. Symons
Page 2
June 28, 1991

2. The Government will assist the Trust in the leasing of approximately 20 acres of land in proximity to the Airport for the development of the project.
3. The Trust and the Republic of the Marshall Islands Government will work together to secure the optimum use of land and provision of utilities.
4. The Government will provide a Sovereign guarantee to the Trust in respect of monies advanced to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
5. The first stage of the development of the project is to cost \$US40 million, and Multiplex Constructions Pty. Ltd. will be appointed by the Trust as project managers/contractors for the project.
6. In respect of Business Migration the parties will work exclusively together on the Trust and Technology Park and will ensure quick processing of applications for business migration by investors in the trust. The Trust, after consultation with the Government, will be responsible for processing applications including design of the forms for submission to the Government for the grant of citizenship for approved persons.
7. The parties will work together to ensure concessions under the Compact of Free Association and tax and duty concessions are available to users of the Technology Park and to ensure employees of subsidiary corporations of the Trust (and users of the Technology Park) in the U.S.A. are able to work and reside in the U.S.A. pursuant to the laws and statutes and treaties of the U.S.A. and the Republic of the Marshall Islands governing such employment.
8. The Government will ensure that plant, equipment and personnel are admitted to the Technology Park with duty tax and other concessions as are available elsewhere in the Pacific rim.
9. The Government agrees to do all things necessary to support the marketing development and management of the Technology Park and Trust.



Mr. Gregory B. Symons
Page 3
June 28, 1991

10. The Airline of the Marshall Islands (the National Carrier) shall be used by the Trust and clients of the Technology Park for carriage of cargo and passengers and the trust and the government shall work together to ensure an efficient and competitive service is available and that the interline arrangements with other carriers are competitive.

11. To promote and develop the role of the Trust with the National Carrier the trust shall act as a general sales agent of the National Carrier on the usual terms of trade basis as agreed between the National Carrier and the Trust.

12. The Government and the trust shall work together to ensure procedures for the development and operation of the technology Park and University Study Centre are fast and efficient including the issue of visas, work permits, foreign investment approval and corporate registration.

To facilitate a thorough review of the proposed program and execution of formal agreements, to be negotiated, your company is requested to submit a formal detailed proposal including marketing, financing, management, and implementation of such scheme. I hope to receive your proposal in the next six weeks, and to commence formal negotiations soon thereafter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenson S. Wase', written over a horizontal line.

Brenson S. Wase
Minister of Resources
and Development



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

0029138/2

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA

Mr Christopher Lamb
Congressional Liaison Officer
Australian Embassy
Washington DC
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Chris

I understand that you have already spoken with Greg Symons, an Australian commercial lawyer and businessman, who as you know, is an advisor to the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

As you will be aware, Australia has a sound cooperative relationship with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and was a sponsor of their recent application for admission to the United Nations. Against the background of this regional cooperation, President Kabua has sought the assistance of the Australian Government in expediting discussions in Washington with key US Government officials and elected representatives on the development of a Business Migration/Investment program in the Marshall Islands. The program is seen as having substantial economic benefit to the Republic as a vehicle to provide sustainable business investment.

You will see from the attached copy of a letter from the Foreign Ministry of the Republic, that Mr Symons, and his colleague Mr Paul Finch, have been appointed advisers to the Republic for the purposes of the necessary negotiations with the US Government within the framework of the relevant treaty between the Islands and USA - the Compact of Free Association.

Mr Symons will be in Washington in the week commencing November 25. I would be most appreciative if you extend to him the courtesy of your office, as well as facilitate, where possible, meetings with the appropriate US Government officials and elected representatives.

Yours sincerely

Kerry W Storaas

AS AN ADJUNCT TO MY STATEMENT I HAVE BEEN AWARE SINCE 7 MAY 1992 THAT ON THE RECEIPT OF MY LETTER IN WASHINGTON, IT WAS FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE IN CANBERRA.

I AM AWARE THAT, A WEEK LATER (ON 29 NOVEMBER), BY ROUTINE FAX, THE DEPARTMENT SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM ITS POST IN POHNPEI ABOUT THE MATTERS RAISED BY ME IN MY LETTER TO LAMB.

THE POST, BY ROUTINE FAX, ADVISED ON 3 DECEMBER THAT IT WAS NOT AWARE OF THE MATTER RAISED IN MY LETTER BUT AGREED THAT IF POSSIBLE SOME ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED (TO SYMONS). IT SAID THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE MATTER. (I ATTACH COPIES OF RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE)

TO MY KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER RESPONSE FROM THE POST OR THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AUTHORITIES HAVE OBJECTED IN ANY WAY TO THE CONTENT OR TENOR OF MY LETTER.

Facsimile Message Cover

(A)

Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade

Comms Use Only

File Number **P. UUN 118**

UNCLASSIFIED

The number of pages including this cover to be transmitted

3

Transmission Information (Please read this first)
List all receiving addresses here
Precedence indicators RR, PP, PPF or II should be used

Comms Use Only

Precedence	Address
PP	CANBERRA
For information:	

Analysis	Copies Required	Channel Index	Time Date Refs	Ass
	1		24/1800	
			12/19/80	

From: WASHINGTON D.C. / FA

File To File: From File:
Numbers

Previous Reference Number:

Title or Subject of the Document/Additional Comments:

Australian consultants to the RMI Government: request for assistance

As discussed in telecon Marchant/Graham, attached is a copy of the letter from Senator Sibraa requesting that this Embassy provide assistance for two Australian consultants to the RMI Government who will be visiting Washington shortly to assist in negotiations with the US Government on the establishment of a Business Migration Program in the Marshall Islands.

We have not yet been able to contact the RMI Embassy in Washington to determine what they might know about the visit. In the event we are contacted by Messrs Symons and Finch next week, however, and they seek the use of office space or other assistance, we propose suggesting that they approach the RMI Embassy in the first instance. We will keep you informed of any developments.

Distribution Details To be completed by Originator:

DFAT : BSP
Attention : Chris Marchant.

Authorised Details (Please Print)

Authorised by **C. GRAHAM**

Dep/Branch/ Sect **POLITICAL**

Date **22. 11. 91**

Authorised officers signature
Phone Number

C. Graham
797. 3076

UNCLASSIFIED

No. Number of pages including this cover to be transmitted **4**

Transmission Information (Please read this first)
List all receiving addresses here
Precedence indicators RR, PP, PPF or II should be used

Analysis	
Copies Required	
Channel Indent	Time Case Refs Acc
211	25 1/2

Precedence	Address
RR	TOHNPET
For Information	

From: CANBERRA/F4

From File **337/4**

Previous Reference Number:

Title or Subject of the Document/Additional Comments

AUSTRALIAN CONSULTANTS TO THE RMI GOVERNMENT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Mr. Haffey
Mr. Baker
Thanks

Attention: AMBASSADOR

We would be grateful if you could provide any background and your views on this matter.

Thanks

Kylie

Distribution Details To be completed by Originator:

SPB BSP

Authorisation Details (Please Print)

Authorised by KYLIE OAKES

Dept/Branch/ Sect SPB / BSP

Date 29/11/91

Authorising officer's signature *Kylie Oakes*

Phone Number 3452

FACSIMILE

TO: KYMB PARKS DEPT STS CANARRA

FAX:

**FROM: AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
POBOX 1
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

**FAX: 691-320-5449
TEL: 691-320-5448**

DATE: 3 DECEMBER 1991

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

**SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CONSULTANTS TO THE RMI GOVERNMENT'S
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

RE YOUR FAX, WE HAVE NO BACKGROUND ON THE MATTER HERE, NOR WAS IT RAISED WITH ME DURING MY VISIT TO RMI LAST WEEK.

2. WE SHALL TRY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SYN AND FINCH AND THEIR MISSION IN WASHINGTON, AND LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE DO.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, I AM SURE THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY IS RIGHT IN TRYING TO DETERMINE WHAT THE RMI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON KNOWS ABOUT THE VISIT, AND IN SUGGESTING RMI FACILITIES BE USED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. THERE MAY NOW BE SOME ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE OUR EMBASSY CAN OFFER ESPECIALLY ON ACCESS.

Regards

Peter Stanford.