

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 314667

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O1212065GDS 12/13/84 (BENNETT, FRANK C)

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT: AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AFFAIRS

TO: EA - MR. RICHARD HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/ANZ - FRANK C. BENNETT, JR.

AUSTRALIA

1. (U) VISIT OF ROGER SHIPTON. THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE
AUSTRALIAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE,
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ROGER SHIPTON M.P., CALLED AT THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY
FOR A BRIEF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. SHIPTON LATER
LUNCHEDED AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH TOM BEARD OF HAMILTON
JORDAN'S STAFF AND WAS GIVEN A TOUR OF THE PREMISES.
SHIPTON, WHOSE APPOINTMENT WAS ARRANGED BY AMBASSADOR
ALSTON, SEEMED VERY PLEASED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. (C) USE OF DIEGO GARCIA FOR IRAN EVACUEES.

I CONCURRED THIS WEEK IN APPROVAL OF AN AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENCY PROPOSAL TO EVACUATE ITS PEOPLE FROM IRAN THROUGH DIEGO GARCIA. THE AUSSIES PLAN TO USE COMMERCIAL CHARTERS IF POSSIBLE, BUT WOULD USE RAAF AIRCRAFT IF NECESSARY. SINCE ONE OF THE CAPTAINS OF THEIR C-130'S IS

A USAF OFFICER I ALSO TOLD AIR FORCE THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO OUR EXCHANGE OFFICER PILOTING ONE OF THE EVACUATION AIRCRAFT IF THIS PROVES NECESSARY.

3. (LOU) DILLINGHAM. THE DILLINGHAM PROBLEM HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY A LETTER FROM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY INFORMING THE FIRM THAT IT MUST RESPOND TO THE GOA'S OFFER OF DOLLARS AUSTRALIAN 4 MILLION BY DECEMBER 31, 1978. DAS EVELYN COLBERT AND I MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF L AND EB LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE CASE AND LEARNED THAT DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISOR LEE MARKS NOW BELIEVES THAT DILLINGHAM HAS IN FACT EXHAUSTED ALL PRACTICAL LEGAL REMEDIES AND THAT THEREFORE WE MUST CONSIDER A FURTHER HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL APPROACH OR ESPOUSE THE CASE IF WE ARE TO ASSIST THE FIRM. A MEMO ON THIS SUBJECT WAS SENT TO YOU DECEMBER 12.

4. (C) NARCOTICS MATTERS. SOME TIME AGO A COMMERCIAL PLANT TO PROCESS POPPY STRAW INTO MORPHINE FOR MEDICINAL USE WAS ESTABLISHED IN TASMANIA. ALTHOUGH THE PLANT'S CONFIDENTIAL

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EXISTENCE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO US FOR SOME TIME, AND WE COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE GOA IN NARCOTICS MATTERS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CONCERNED ANYONE IN THE USG UNTIL VERY RECENTLY. ACCORDING TO DEA, THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD HAS ANNOUNCED THAT UNLESS THERE IS A LARGE AND UNFORESEEN INCREASE IN THE USE OF LICIT NARCOTICS BETWEEN NOW AND 1982, MORPHINE MANUFACTURING CAPACITY WILL BE 53 PERCENT GREATER, ON AVERAGE, THAN WORLDWIDE REQUIREMENTS. THE INCB, ACCORDING TO DEA, IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THIS SITUATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAJOR PRODUCING COUNTRIES -- INDIA, TURKEY, AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE. ROBERT ANGAROLA AT THE NSC HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE ASK THE GOA TO CLOSE DOWN THE TASMANIA FACTORY IN THE INTEREST OF ENCOURAGING "TRADITIONAL SUPPLIERS", I.E. TURKEY AND INDIA, TO MAINTAIN CONTROLS OVER THEIR PRODUCTION. I TOLD ANGAROLA THAT IT SEEMED A LITTLE LATE FOR US TO RAISE THE CLOSURE OF WHAT I BELIEVE IS A PRIVATE PLANT, BUT WILL MEET WITH HIM AND DICK GIBSON OF S/NM NEXT WEEK TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM FURTHER.

5. (U) SOLAR ENERGY DISCUSSIONS. THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE EXPRESSED THE WISH TO COMPARE NOTES WITH US ON SOLAR ENERGY.

DOE IS CURRENTLY PREPARING A LETTER INVITING THE GOA TO
SEND A DELEGATION HERE FOR TALKS IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH AND
HOPES TO LINE UP WORTHWHILE VISITS TO PROJECTS AT POINTS
AROUND THE US, AS WELL.

NEW ZEALAND

6. (LOU) BEEF. THE BEEF SHORTFALL WAS REDISTRIBUTED

AFTER A LONG DELAY OCCASIONED BY NICARAGUA'S PRESENCE ON
THE LIST OF THE SIX BENEFICIARIES. AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND RECEIVED 56.1 MILLION POUNDS OF THE 65 MILLION
POUND TOTAL. WE ARE ABOUT TO ASK THE PRESIDENT TO
DETERMINE NEXT YEAR'S RESTRAINT LEVEL. BOTH USDA AND
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THE DEPARTMENT ARE RECOMMENDING A 1.57 BILLION POUND
BEEF IMPORT LEVEL, WHICH WILL BE AN INCREASE OVER THIS
YEAR'S TOTAL IMPORTS. FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL DECISION
WE WILL BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EMBASSIES OF THE
VARIOUS BEEF EXPORTERS TO DETERMINE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY
LEVELS.

7. (U) HEALY VISIT. WELLINGTON DCM TERRY HEALY HAS AN
APPOINTMENT TO SEE YOU TOMORROW MORNING. TERRY IS IN
WASHINGTON ON A PRIVATE VISIT BUT HAS KINDLY AGREED TO
MEET WITH ANZ, PIA, INR/REA, AND OTHER OFFICES INTERESTED
IN TALKING TO HER ABOUT NEW ZEALAND.
CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BRISBANE PERTH AND AUCKLAND.

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