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TELEGRAM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2180  
STATE GRNC  
BT  
S E C R E T CANBERRA 4842

CONTROL: 1780Q  
REC'D : APRIL 6, 1968  
8:50AM

*Canberra 4842*  
*4/6/68*

SECTO 43

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY FROM THE SECRETARY.

IN MY TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER GORTON I RAN INTO A FULL BATTERY OF RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. YOU COULD ALMOST REPEAT EVERYTHING THE GERMANS HAVE SAID ALONG THE WAY AND PUT THEM IN AUSTRALIAN MOUTHES. GORTON IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT GIVING UP THE NUCLEAR OPTION FOR A PERIOD AS LONG AS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WHEN HE CANNOT KNOW HOW THE SITUATION WILL DEVELOP IN THE AREA. HE SOUNDED ALMOST

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LIKE DEGAULLE IN SAYING THAT AUSTRALIA COULD NOT RELY UPON THE UNITED STATES FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER ANZUS IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL OR ATTACK ON AUSTRALIA. I WILL NOT RECOUNT HERE WHAT I SAID TO HIM BUT I OPENED UP ALL STOPS. ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH IS GETTING IN THE WAY IS OBJECTIONS COMING OUT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS ON ALL SORTS OF PICAYUNE PROBLEMS ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SATISFY THE GERMANS AND OTHERS. I AM THINKING OF INHIBITIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE, THE PRESENCE OF HOSTILE INSPECTORS WANDERING AROUND AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS ETC., ETC. I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF WE COULD SEND TO AUSTRALIA SOMEONE WHO IS THOROUGHLY COMPETENT ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE ON NUCLEAR MATTERS AND OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY TO ELIMINATE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND IRRELEVANCIES WHICH ARE FLOATING AROUND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE WOULD BE SOME ADVANTAGE IN SENDING SOMEONE TO AUSTRALIA RATHER THAN TRY TO PULL A TEAM TOGETHER FROM AUSTRALIA TO COME TO WASHINGTON BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY

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DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAUCRACY.

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OBVIOUSLY, SOMEONE LIKE GLENN SEABORG COULD DO A GREAT SERVICE IF HE COULD COME OUT. FAILING THAT, WE OUGHT TO COME UP WITH THE MOST COMPETENT MAN WE COULD SPARE. BECAUSE OF THE EASTER PERIOD THE DATE WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT CAREFULLY THROUGH KEITH WALLER.

I WILL HAVE TO REPORT THAT, AS OF NOW, AUSTRALIA WILL TAKE A CAUTIOUS AND RESERVED VIEW AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I WAS TOLD QUITE FRANKLY THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD REACH A DECISION BY THAT TIME TO STATE THAT IT WOULD SIGN THE TREATY AS IT STANDS. THEY WILL NOT STATE THAT THEY WILL NOT SIGN IT AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH OUR DELEGATION ABOUT HOW THEY COMPORT THEMSELVES WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DAMAGE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. THE OBJECT OF A SPECIAL EMMISARY WOULD BE TO DEAL WITH AS MANY OF THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO CLEAR AWAY THAT UNDERBRUSH RATHER THAN TO TAKE ON THE MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE AS TO WHETHER AUSTRALIA SHOULD GIVE UP THE NUCLEAR OPTION. IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT ANYONE WE SEND BE THOROUGHLY

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COMPETENT ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE. IF IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEND SOMEONE IT IS STILL OPEN TO US TO INVITE A DELEGATION FROM AUSTRALIA TO VISIT WASHINGTON BUT MY GUESS IS THAT THEY WOULD SIMPLY REFLECT THE EXISTING BICKERING INSIDE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND WOULD DELAY MATTERS EVEN FURTHER. SEE WHAT YOU AND BILL FOSTER CAN DO.

GORTON DID SAY THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD INDICATE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE TREATY AND FOR THE IDEA OF NON-PROLIFERATION BUT MY GUESS IS THAT THEY WILL, FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD, HIDE BEHIND OBJECTIONS RAISED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS.

GP-1. RUSK

BT

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