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By **SW** NARA Date **10/12/08**

Department of State

TELEGRAM



SECRET 733

*Canberra 4923
4-10-68*

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ACTION SS 70

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Q 100245Z APR 68
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2202

S E C R E T CANBERRA 4923

LIMDIS

SUBJ: NPT

REF: STATE 143872 — *DEF 18-6*

SUMMARY

1. ON BASIS DISCUSSIONS WITH EXTAFF, EMBASSY BELIEVES WOULD SERVE MOST USEFUL PURPOSE SEND SMALL US TEAM EXPERTS TO DISCUSS NPT WITH TOP AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR TWO DAYS MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. AT CABINET YESTERDAY IT WAS DECIDED SUCH VISIT WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOMED.

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EMBASSY THINKS TEAM MIGHT BE ABLE HELP EXTAFF CONVERT PRESENT HESITANT AUSTRALIAN POSITION TO ONE OF SUPPORT FOR NPT.
END SUMMARY.

2. 2. EXTAFF FIRST ASST. SECY. BOOKER TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT WHILE EXTAFF GENERALLY FAVORS AUSTRALIAN ADHERENCE, OTHER DEPARTMENTS HAVE SERIOUS MISGIVINGS WHICH EXTAFF NOT IN POSITION TO ALLAY ON BASIS ITS OWN INFORMATION. PROBLEM NOT SO MUCH ON POLITICAL SIDE AS TECHNICAL SIDE. AUSTRALIAN AEC AND MINISTRY NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FEAR THAT AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY INDUSTRY MAY BE FROZEN IN "PREMITIVE STATE." PRINCIPAL GOA CONCERNS AND MISGIVINGS LIE IN FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES, ATOMIC

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ENERGY FOR PROPULSION MILITARY VEHICLES AND PRODUCTION NUCLEAR ELEMENTS (E.G., ENRICHED URANIUM) FOR PEACEFUL USE BUT WHICH COULD HAVE MILITARY POTENTIAL. WILL SUCH PRODUCTION BE BANNED UNDER NPT? HOW WILL INSPECTIONS BE CONDUCTED, WHAT CONTROLS EXERCISED? IAEA DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANSWERS. HOW WILL GUARANTEES WORK? BOOKER

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SAID GOA FEARS IT WOULD BE BUYING PIG IN POKE TO SIGN TREATY WITHOUT CLEARER UNDERSTANDING ITS INTENDED APPLICATION. MAIN PROBLEM NOT WORDING BUT AGREED INTERPRETATION.

3. ACCORDING BOOKER, EXSTAFF WOULD LIKE GOA TO BE IN POSITION OF ACTIVELY SUPPORTING NPT, BUT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES FURTHER IT COULD GO WOULD BE NOT TO OPPOSE. IF GOA IS TO BE IN POSITION TO INSTRUCT ITS UNGA DELEGATION TO ACT POSITIVELY, GOVERNMENT OPINION MUST BE CRYSTALLIZED BY END OF WEEK FOLLOWING EASTER.

4. IT WOULD NOT HELP TO SEND AUSTRALIAN TEAM TO US. HOWEVER, VISIT TO CANBERRA OF LEADING AEC OFFICIAL WHO COULD OFFER GUIDANCE ON CIVIL USES ATOMIC ENERGY, ACCOMPANIED BY SOMEONE FROM ACDA WHO COULD SPEAK TO INTERPRETATION OF NPT, COULD DO MUCH, HE FEELS, TO ALLAY FEARS OF CERTAIN MINISTERS. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO MUST BE CONVINCED. MOREOVER, MINISTERS IN CABINET YESTERDAY DECIDED THEY WOULD WELCOME SUCH VISIT. IF MEETINGS CAN BE SCHEDULED SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE, ONE DAY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS SHOULD

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SUFFICE. AUSTRALIAN AEC CHAIRMAN BAXTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO HAVE ANOTHER DAY THEMSELVES WITH US TEAM.

5. EMBASSY NOT CERTAIN VISIT OF US TEAM CAN SUCCEED IN TRANSFORMING GOA POSITION FROM ONE OF RELUCTANCE TO ACTIVE SUPPORT, BUT SENDING AS TEAM LEADER MAN OF HIGHEST STATURE WHOM MINISTERS RESPECT PERSONALLY

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