

TELE

MY TELNO

CANFO 003/05

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GRS 150

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CANBERRA 050300Z SEPT 64

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 866 OF 5 SEPTEMBER

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

MR BOYD
SPD

(X1)

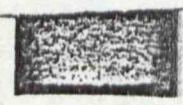
MY TELNO 822

: SIR J BJELKE -PETERSON

1. TODAY'S AUSTRALIAN PRESS, 5 SEPTEMBER, CARRIES AN AAP REPORT FROM LONDON OF THE QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S BRIEFING OF THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER. TEXT IN MIFT.
2. THE PREMIER'S ALLEGATION OF THE PRIMEMINISTER'S SUPPORT FOR AND APPRECIATION OF HIS CASE MAY AROUSE COMMENT HERE. GRATEFUL FOR EARLIEST RECORD OF THE MEETING, WITH ANY COMMENTS, AND THE TEXT OF THE PREMIER'S LETTER, TOGETHER WITH AUTHORITY TO GO OVER THE GROUND WITH SIR G YEEND.
3. SHOULD THERE BE PRESS COMMENT ON THE IMPLIED CRITICISM OF MYSELF IN THE PREMIER'S COMMENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SEEMED QUOTE NOT QUITE AWARE UNQUOTE OF EVENT IN AUSTRALIA, I WILL BEFAP IT STOICALLY.

MASON

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FM CANBERRA 050310Z SEPT 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 867 OF 5 SEPTEMBER

(X)

Mr Boyd
SPD

MIPT : SIR J BJELKE -PETERSON. TEXT OF AAP REPORT.
LONDON: THE QUEENSLAND PREMIER, SIR JOH BJELKE-PETERSON, TOOK HIS FIGHT FOR STATE RIGHTS TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET YESTERDAY. SIR JOH , DURING A HALF -HOUR MEETING WITH THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MRS THATCHER, HANDED HER A LETTER SETTING OUT THE LINKS HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED TO PRESERVE WITH THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND MONARCHY.

AIDES SAID THE PREMIER WANTED TO MAKE SUPE BRITAIN WAS AWARE OF QUEENSLAND'S POSITION IN THE EVENT OF A BREAKDOWN OF A TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE STATES ON SEVEPING RESIDUAL LINKS WITH THE FORMER COLONIAL RULERS. THE LINKS ARE ENSHRINED IN A BRITISH ACT OF PARLIAMENT WHICH MUST BE AMENDED TO GIVE ANY CHANGES EFFECT. THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED BRIEFLY AT THE LAST PREMIERS' CONFERENCE WHERE , SIR JOH SAID , IT WAS CLEAR ALL GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED ON A COMMON APPROACH. HE SAID THE STATES WOULD SCRAP REMAINING AVENUES OF APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL BUT QUEENSLAND HAD INSISTED ON A CONSOLIDATION OF THE RIGHT OF STATE PREMIERS TO APPROACH THE QUEEN DIRECTLY ON THE APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF GOVERNORS. THEY HAD ALSO MAINTAINED THE RIGHT TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPERIAL HONOURS.

AIDES SAID QUEENSLAND'S INSISTENCES ON ENSHRINING THE STATE POWERS ON APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS IN LEGISLATION WAS AIMED AT MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR A FUTURE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MOVE UNILATERALLY TOWARD A REPUBLIC.

SIR JOH SAID MRS THATCHER WAS QUOTE VERY INTERESTED IN THE WHOLE AREA. I THINK SHE APPRECIATES AND SUPPORTS US IN THIS UNQUOTE. HE SAID.

HE SAID MRS THATCHER DID NOT SEEM QUOTE QUITE AWARE UNQUOTE OF WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING IN AUSTRALIA.

QUOTE I GAVE HER A RUNDOWN ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION , ON ATTITUDES TO THE ANTHEM, THE FLAG AND SO ON UNQUOTE, SIR JOH SAID.

HE ALSO RAISED BRISBANE'S EXPO. 88 ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ISSUE A FORMAL INVITATION FOR BRITAIN TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE PROTOCOL GIVES THAT PEROGATIVE TO THE PRIME MINISTER , MR HAWKE.

HOWEVER, AIDES SAID MRS THATCHER'S ATTITUDE INDICATED THAT A STRONG BRITISH REPRESENTATION WAS CERTAIN.

ENDS

MASON

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