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SIC ACA/ZAC/ECA
MODUK FOR LESTER SEC(0)(C)
MEETINGS WITH AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS AT GALLIPOLI

SUMMARY

1. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS WITH MR HAWKE AT GALLIPOLI AND FOR THE DEFENCE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MR BEAZLEY.

DETAIL

2. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE MEETING MR HAWKE AT GALLIPOLI ON 25 APRIL.

3. THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE ACCEPTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE DEFENCE SECRETARY SHOULD MEET OVER BREAKFAST ON 25 APRIL MR BEAZLEY WHO, ALTHOUGH HE HAS THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO IN THE NEW HAWKE GOVERNMENT, WILL BE REPRESENTING AT GALLIPOLI THE NEW DEFENCE MINISTER, SENATOR RAY, WHO WILL NOT BE ATTENDING. AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT THIS MEETING SHOULD BE REGARDED AS INFORMAL (PROBABLY TO SAVE RAY'S FACE). WE HAVE SAID THAT THAT PRESENTS NO PROBLEMS.

4. SOME COMMENTS ON POINTS FOR DISCUSSION MAY BE HELPFUL.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING

5. HAWKE WILL OBVIOUSLY THANK THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE DECISION ON THE CONSTITUTION ACT WHICH HE MUCH WELCOMES. THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT WISH TO SAY THAT WE ATTACH AS MUCH IMPORTANCE AS EVER TO A STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AUSTRALIA AND THAT THE LORD PRESIDENT, HOME SECRETARY AND ENERGY SECRETARY ALL HOPE TO VISIT AUSTRALIA IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER.

6. I WOULD EXPECT HAWKE TO SEEK THE PRIME MINISTER'S LATEST VIEWS

ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE AND EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

7. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ARE REVIEWING THEIR POLICY TOWARDS HONG KONG. WE HAVE ASKED THEM TO CONSIDER MAKING AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE A NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY BY GIVING THEM ASSURANCE OF A RIGHT OF ABODE IN AUSTRALIA WITHOUT NEEDING TO LEAVE HONG KONG. OUR IMPRESSION FROM OFFICIALS IS THAT THE AUSTRALIANS ARE UNLIKELY TO MOVE FAR IN THE DIRECTION WE SHOULD LIKE (THOUGH THEY ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS IN HONG KONG TO INTRODUCE RESIDENCY ARRANGEMENTS TO GIVE THEIR STAFF REASSURANCE TO REMAIN). BUT THERE IS JUST A CHANCE THAT IF THE PRIME MINISTER PRESSES THE CASE WITH HAWKE, HE WILL URGE A MORE HELPFUL RESPONSE ON CABINET. HE MAY BE SYMPATHETIC TO ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF OTHERS NOT POACHING HONG KONG'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST (AS SOME HERE URGE).
8. HAWKE COULD GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER HIS UP TO DATE VIEW ON THE SITUATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, WHICH IS A WORRY FOR AUSTRALIA, AND PERHAPS CAMBODIA.
9. YOU WILL DOUBTLESS PROVIDE DEFENSIVE BRIEFING ON MARALINGA, THOUGH I DOUBT THAT HAWKE WILL RAISE IT.
10. I RECOMMEND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER BE GIVEN AT LEAST DEFENSIVE BRIEFING ON (A) THE GENERAL AUSTRALIAN CONCERN ABOUT OUR ARMS SALES TO THEIR REGION AND (B) THEIR SPECIFIC CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE SALE OF TORNADO TO INDONESIA. I HAVE RECEIVED NO RECENT REPRESENTATIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS BUT WE SHOULD CLEARLY BE PREPARED IN CASE HAWKE OR BEAZLEY RAISES THEM AT GALLIPOLI. WHETHER YOU WOULD WISH TO PROVIDE MORE THAN DEFENSIVE BRIEFING IE TO ADVISE THE PRIME MINISTER IN EFFECT TO REPLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIONS WILL DEPEND ON THE STATE OF YOUR EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEM, ON WHICH I AM NOT UP TO DATE. I AM RATHER INCLINED TO THINK IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO CONTINUE TO HANDLE THESE MATTERS AT OFFICIAL LEVEL FOR THE TIME BEING IF WE CAN. I SHOULD IN ANY CASE BE GRATEFUL FOR A QUICK TELEGRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF WHAT IF ANYTHING IS SAID ON THESE SUBJECTS AT GALLIPOLI.
11. I SHOULD ADD THAT IN CASE YOU MAY HAVE IT IN MIND TO INSTRUCT ME TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ARMS SALES BEFORE GALLIPOLI I SHALL BE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO QUEENSLAND FROM 16 TO 19 APRIL.

DEFENCE SECRETARY'S MEETING

12. THE DEFENCE SECRETARY WILL NEED SIMILAR BRIEFING ON ARMS SALES IN CASE BEAZLEY RAISES THE ISSUE.

13. MR KING COULD ALSO USEFULLY EXPRESS OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE JINDALEE PROJECT IN WHICH TELECOM AUSTRALIA (A NEW 'RESPONSIBILITY' FOR BEAZLEY) IS TEAMED WITH GEC/MARCONI. MR KING MIGHT REPEAT OUR PREVIOUS ASSURANCES ON FULL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FROM THE UK AND GOVERNMENT BACKING OF JOINT WORLD-WIDE MARKETING. BUT THE POSSIBLE CONNEXION BETWEEN THE TORNADO ISSUE AND THE JINDALEE CONTRACT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND.

14. I SUGGEST THAT MR KING ALSO SAYS THAT WE HOPE WE WILL RECEIVE A REASONABLY EARLY REPLY TO THE REQUEST WE MADE SOME TIME AGO FOR ASSURANCES ABOUT FUTURE VISITS BY NUCLEAR-POWERED OR NUCLEAR-ARMED SHIPS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN OUR PRESSURE ON THIS MATTER.

15. BEAZLEY IS BOUND TO BE INTERESTED IN OUR THINKING ON DEFENCE POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE AND EAST/WEST RELATIONS.

16. IN VIEW OF SENATOR RAY'S INABILITY TO JOIN MR KING AT GALLIPOLI I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEFENCE SECRETARY SENDS RAY A SUITABLE MESSAGE CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS APPOINTMENT, AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT AN EARLY MEETING (PERHAPS IN LONDON) WILL BE POSSIBLE.

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