

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FILE

FROM: Canberra
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 612, April 30, 7 p.m.

ANZUS

Department telegram 654

We agree GOA fully understands our trade position and reiteration to government not likely be productive. Our interest in having Secretary focus on trade policy arises from fact that McEwen's attacks against our position on British EEC membership and continuation Commonwealth preferences are getting major press play, while our reasoning on this subject still needs to be set forth lucidly to Australian public. We would like take advantage Secretary's visit to do this.

In view decision make Canberra speech theme political, we believe above need can be met by:

(1) Emphasizing, in economic section of Secretary's speech, positive features US trade policy, in particular non-selfish aspect our opposition preferences and Australian role in and likely benefits from type of world trade US seeking, and

(2) Secretary being prepared answer in press conference sharp questions on (A) alleged US indifference Australian economic fate and weakening Commonwealth ties, (B) allegations US utilizing CM negotiations to kill preferences for selfish purposes and at Australian expense, and (C) alleged inconsistency between US trade principles and practices as exemplified by US barrier to Australian imports.

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The John F. Kennedy National Security Files.
Asia and the Pacific: National Security Files, 1961-1963