

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

*Washington*

39-W

Action

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FROM: Canberra

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TO: Secretary of State

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E.O. 11652, SEC. 2(E), 5(D), 6(E) AND 11

*State NLK-78-407*  
*ms mfm* NARS DATE *8-9-78*

EXTAFF has informed Embassy that in response to inquiries made by Australian Embassy Washington concerning reply to be made in Trusteeship Council to possible Soviet attacks against tracking facilities on Manus and Buka Islands, Department has stated it would be appropriate to say advent is in abeyance and no plans exist at present time to establish tracking facilities on Manus or Buka.

Australians have learned through other channels that although changes in project advent are being made, tracking facilities on Manus very probably will be needed. If this is the case, it would be most unfortunate if Australians were to make statement along above lines. If they were to do so it would possibly make it difficult for them to make facilities available to us later.

Furthermore, if Australian Embassy information is true, Embassy considers it most unfortunate that Australians have been informed in this indirect manner of our changed plans after they have devoted so much time and effort and taken difficult political decision to grant us tracking sites in their trust territory.

Would appreciate clarification of situation.

BELTON

HMR/3

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