

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Rec'd: July 10, 1962
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FROM: Canberra
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 21, July 10, 5 p.m.

FILE

ACTION DEPARTMENT 21, INFORMATION WELLINGTON 3, MELBOURNE
SYDNEY UNNUMBERED

Vice President's visit will be very welcome and useful at any time. However we believe much more could be gained from it if it could be postponed until late September-early October just after Menzies and McEwen return from PM's conference London. By that time our trade legislation will presumably have passed and situation re British entry into Common Market will probably be known. Vice President could engage in useful and perhaps, at that time, very necessary conversations, whichever way CM issue turns out. Such timing would also provide desirable spacing following Secretary Rusk's visit in May and Ambassador Battle's arrival and initial official appearances later this month. It would fit between visit of Thai King and Queen in late August-early September and visit of Prince Phillip to Commonwealth games in November. Parliament, which now in recess until August 7, expected be in session then.

If postponement not feasible, suggest visit to Australia be scheduled for week beginning July 30. Ambassador Battle already scheduled for first official visits to Sydney and Melbourne week July 23 and it would be difficult and embarrassing cancel these now. Visits to Canberra Melbourne and Sydney in that order would be best. Will forward further recommendations for specific program after receipt of reaction to suggested postponement.

Consulate

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Consulate General Sydney concurs general tenor this message. Consulate General Melbourne cabling additional views directly.

BELTON

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