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By L.W. NARS, Date 7-18-75

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1. Request you see Hasluck soonest and review with him London talks now in progress on basis London's 997 (26 to Canberra) and our reply thereto, Djakarta's 528 (38 to Canberra), and Bell's reports of his meeting with Lee Kuan Yew. You should tell him we greatly concerned at British position, and give him following message from Secretary:

a. We regard it as unacceptable for British to be planning what seems to be major reduction of their commitments in SEA and of their ability to follow through. We assume Australia has similar reaction, and will agree that we must make this clear to HMG before British position becomes firmer. With this in mind, Secretary would like to know whether Hasluck thinks it would be useful if we told HMG, jointly or separately, that we will not RPT not engage in any contingency planning with British for their withdrawal from Singapore base or planning which presupposes that there will be retreat by HMG from its existing

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FE:SPA:DCCuthell:111

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

FE - Leonard Unger

Clearances:  
EUR- Mr. Leddy (subs)

The Secretary (subs)  
S/S - Mr. Rattray

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commitments or serious reduction its force levels along lines indicated in London talks (FYI see para 5 London's 997. END FYI).

2. Would like Hasluck's opinion soonest.

GP-1

END

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