

3014/110/15/3
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, MOSCOW

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD SAVINGRAM

25228

To: From: Australian Embassy,
MOSCOW.

Send Dated: 15
2nd June, 1965.
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SAVINGRAM NO. 24 : UNCLASSIFIED

SOVIET PRESS COMMENT ON AUSTRALIA

MAY, 1965.

April.

"Foreign Literature"

"The Sins of Commercial Television" and "In Memory of Netty Palmer"

See Memorandum 454 of 26th May, 1965.

April 30

"Pravda"

"Short Story - Thirty Shillings"

See Memorandum 384 of 6th May, 1965.

April 30 -
May 6

"Za Rubezhom"

"Australia - Pickets at Mt. Isa"

See Memorandum 402 of 12th May, 1965.

May 3

"Pravda"

Canberra, 2nd May, "Pravda" Special Correspondent.

In the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament, Prime Minister Menzies revealed the decision of his Government to send a military fighting unit - an infantry battalion - to South Vietnam.

Right until the last minute members of Parliament in Canberra did not know about the forthcoming declaration of Menzies. However, in Washington the news had already been fully realised, and responsible officials were giving interviews to journalists about the new step of the Australian Government.

Yu Yasnev.

May 4

"Pravda"

Canberra, 3rd May, "Pravda" Special Correspondent.

Comments by Australian newspapers on the decision of the Government to send regular troops to South Vietnam clearly gave the lie to the verbal affirmation in Parliament by Menzies that "by the far great majority of Australians support the policies of the Government on Vietnam". The lead article published in the paper "Australian" is characteristic in this regard. "The Menzies Government", says the article, "has taken an ill-advised decision on Vietnam ... it is completely obvious that this has come about under strong pressure from the Johnson administration."

The paper emphasises the fact that even England, which supports the policies of the U.S.A. in Vietnam, or Canada, the closest neighbour of the U.S.A., are not sending their own troops to Vietnam. The paper

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reveals the unsuccessful attempt of Menzies to justify his decision by references to the obligations of military treaties. "Anzus cannot be altered", says the lead article, "as long as anybody attacks the United States".

Yu Yasnev.

May 4

"Pravda"

"Irresponsible Decision"

Hanoi, 3rd May, "Tass".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has published a statement concerning the agreement of the Australian Government with the U.S. on the sending of Australian forces to South Vietnam to participate there in the aggressive war, according to the Vietnamese Information Agency.

"This act of the Australian Government", says the statement, "seriously breaches the Geneva Agreement of 1954 on Vietnam and is also a serious breach of international law. It is a grave infringement on the sovereignty and independence of Vietnam and puts the Australian people in the same unsafe boat as the American imperialists in South Vietnam".

May 5

"Izvestia"

"Sharp Condemnation"

Canberra, 5th May, "Tass".

The Labour faction of the Federal Parliament of Australia yesterday unanimously condemned the decision of the Government to send an infantry battalion to Vietnam.

The sharpness and decisiveness with which this was done caused violent interruptions and prevarication among the deputies of the Government majority, and also among the Government, headed by Menzies.

May 10

"Pravda"

"An Awakening Volcano"

See Memorandum 401 of 12th May, 1965.

May 13

"Pravda" and "Trud"

"The Angry Voice"

Sydney, 12th May, "Tass".

The Australian Seamen's Union has adopted a decision not to provide tugs in Australian ports for United States warships as a sign of protest against the activities of the U.S.A. in Vietnam.

May 14

"Pravda"

"The Voice of the Patriots of Australia"

See Memorandum 437 of 20th May, 1965.

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"Pravda"

"In the M.F.A. of the U.S.S.R. ..."

See Memorandum 438 of 20th May, 1965.

May 20

"Pravda"

"Blood for Dollars"

See Memorandum 440 of 20th May, 1965.

May 25

"Pravda" and "Trud"

"Meetings of Protest"

Canberra, 24th May, "Tass".

On the summons of the Australian Council of Trade Unions there took place yesterday in a number of industrial centres in the country, including Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney and Perth, meetings of protest against the participation of Australia in the "dirty war" in Vietnam. According to the newspaper "Australian", thousands of workers, representatives of the intelligentsia, students, and Labour members of Parliament, took part in the meetings.

May 26

"Pravda"

An open letter to the Chairman of the Communist Party of Australia, Comrade Richard Dickson.

See Memorandum 459 of 26th May, 1965.

May 27

"Pravda"

"Departure for Home of the Delegation of Party Workers of the Communist Party of Australia."

On 26th May the delegation of Party Workers of the Communist Party of Australia, which has been visiting the U.S.S.R. at the invitation of the Central Committee of the C.S.P.U., departed for home. At the same time the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Australia, Comrade L. Sharkey, who has been spending his leave in the Soviet Union, also departed for home.

During their stay in our country the members of the delegation visited Moscow, Leningrad, Kharkov, the Georgian Republic and the Azerbadzhanian Republic. The delegation was received in the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., the International Section of the Central Committee of the C.S.P.U., the All-Union Trade Union Central Committee, and at the editorial offices of the newspaper "Pravda". The Australian communists visited industrial undertakings, building sites, sovkoves and kolhkoves, and educational and medical institutions, in all of which they had numerous meetings and discussions with Soviet people. (Tass).

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