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'Sound Basis Of Goodwill' In South-east Asia

CANBERRA, Tuesday. — Australia had a sound basis of goodwill in South-east Asia, though the struggle against Communism there would be long, hard and often unrewarding, the Minister for External Affairs, Sir Garfield Barwick, said today.

Sir Garfield was reporting to the House of Representatives on his tour of South-East Asian countries during the parliamentary recess between May and July.

He visited Vietnam, Formosa, South Korea, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Malaya and Indonesia.

He discussed his visit to Indonesia in a separate statement today on the West New Guinea dispute.

He found little cause for complacency or idle self-satisfaction during his trip, said Sir Garfield.

Australia could expand the goodwill it enjoyed in South-East Asia, and enlarge the field of common interest, by doing its utmost:

- Encourage more visits to Australia by Ministers, officials and others from Asian countries.
- Maintain and where appropriate increase Australia's economic and technical assistance under the Colombo Plan, SEATO aid and other arrangements.
- Stimulate trade, improve shipping connections and give encouragement to Australian investment in suitable Asian enterprises.

Diversity Of Conditions

In his statement, tabled in the House of Representatives this afternoon, Sir Garfield said one of his strongest impressions was the great diversity of conditions and attitudes among the countries visited, and the difficulty and danger of attempts to generalise about the region.

In all the countries he received a warm welcome, reflecting the strength and cordiality of Australia's relations with Asian countries and the generally high regard in which Australia was held throughout the area.

At the same time he was continually conscious, throughout a journey which skirted the periphery of Communist China, that the entire region had become a primary theatre of international pressure and conflict.

In some countries the pressures were muted and the struggle waged for the

most part below the surface. In places like Laos and Vietnam, the underlying realities had been exposed. Throughout the area, international Communism was actively seeking to advance its influence.

"To deal with a movement so complex, so many-sided and so adaptable to varying conditions and situations, the West needs policies of equal flexibility," Sir Garfield said.

He had found in Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea and Thailand, scepticism about the prospects for survival of a genuinely independent and neutral Laos. The Cambodians were nearly as pessimistic, and nowhere did he find extravagant optimism.

Most of these countries, however, recognised that there was no longer any practicable alternative to support for the new Government and that the best hope for stability in Laos and the area lay in efforts to make the coalition work.

"I fully believe that we should all do what we can to support Prince Souvanna Phouma's Administration in its efforts to carry out the provisions of the Geneva agreement," said Sir Garfield.

Sir Garfield said the Chinese Nationalists were convinced that conditions on the Chinese mainland were so bad and popular disaffection with the Communist regime so great, that the mainland people would rise en masse to help to liberate themselves from Communist rule.

"I do not, however, believe that the Nationalists will take military action against the mainland unless it became unmistakably clear that this was the wish of the mainland people," Sir Garfield said.

Jobless Figures 'Mislead'

The skills possessed by unemployed men were more important knowledge for industry than mere numbers of unemployed, the president of the Australian Metal Industries Association, Mr W. G. Gerard, said last night.

He said his association had asked the Federal Government to inquire into the composition of the numbers of people registered for employment.

It had also asked that the migration program be speeded up, with special emphasis on the types of workers required by industry.

There was a shortage in 16 classifications of tradesmen needed in the metal industries.

Despite publicity given to the high unemployment figures, he said, the experience of employers in the metal industries was that the real reserve of labour among the unemployed appeared smaller than the total figures suggested.

"More Vacancies Than Job-seekers" The director of the Metal Trades Employers' Association, Mr R. G. Fry, said yesterday monthly figures of registered job-seekers released by the Federal Government were misleading to industry.

"We are told there are 90,000 unemployed, but we find in practice there are many more job vacancies than there are job-seekers," he said.

Mr Fry said that in N.S.W. at June 1 this year there were about 1,000 vacancies for tradesmen in the metal industries, but only 600 were registered as looking for work.

Plan For Sign On Kirribilli Flats Rejected

North Sydney Council last night refused to allow the erection of large signs advertising Australian butter and cheese on the roof of a block of flats in Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli.

The Australian Dairy Produce Board made the application to erect the signs.

The town planner, Mr R. M. Ross, said the board had proposed a structure 50ft by 25ft.

One side, facing outgoing Harbour Bridge traffic, would consist of the words "Butter Makes It Better" and an illustration of a dairymaid on a rectangular panel of contrasting colour.

The other side, facing incoming Harbour Bridge rail and bus traffic, would consist of the words "Cheese For Today's Protein" and a similar dairymaid illustration.

Both sides would have a 6ft figured "jump clock."

Mr Ross said all general advertising structures were prohibited in residential zones under the North Sydney local planning scheme.

"Preposterous Proposal" A number of previous applications for permission to erect signs had been refused.

A letter from the chairman of the Australian Dairy Produce Board, Mr E. G. Roberts, said the signs would be seen by about 10-million people a week.

The board's application was supported by a letter from the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr C. F. Adernann.

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17 "Stayput" Seamen

Seventeen "stayput" seamen last night settled down to a long wait on a Government-owned cargo vessel lying idle in Sydney.

The seamen said anyone who tried to force them to leave would have to "carry them from the ship."

The men are crewmen of the 6,500-ton Boonaroo, which has been laid up at a Balmain dock because of a shortage of cargo.

They have refused to leave the Boonaroo in protest against dismissal notices to them on Monday.

The men claim 70,000 tons of Australian shipping is lying idle in Sydney because of the shortage of cargo.

"Meanwhile overseas shipping companies are charging over £3 million a week to carry Australian cargo," one of the men, Mr B. Wilton, said.

Watched Television "We are being held at the mercy of overseas combines. It is time the Australian public knew this and pressed for Australia's own overseas shipping line."

On board the Boonaroo last night, the 17 "stayput" seamen watched television, played cards and listened to a portable radio as they awaited developments in their passive protest.

They have attached large printed placards telling of the strike to the ship's side. Friends and sympathisers are supplying them with food, but Mr Wilton said the men would face a bleak period without light and power, if the ship was towed to a mooring and closed down when painters and dockers completed repairs within a few days.

"But we will stay on the ship until our protest is heard by the Australian public," he said.

New Council Chambers

Bankstown Council last night accepted a £77,197 tender for erection of new council chambers on its four-acre Civic Centre site.

The successful tenderer was Monier Builders Pty. Ltd., of Villawood, whose tender was the second lowest of 14 received.

Tenders ranged from £76,550 to £93,000.

The company has undertaken to complete the chambers in 22 weeks.

Bankstown Council has now voted £470,000 for its Civic Centre project. A £387,000 administration block is at present being built.