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DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
PAPER NO. 557
DATE PRESENTED 10 APR 1974
<i>J. R. Odgers</i>
Clerk of the Senate

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

**Report from the Joint Committee on the
Northern Territory**

**(being a report that the Committee has been unable
to complete its Inquiry)**

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Personnel of the Committee

Chairman	..	..	..	Mr A.W. James, M.P.
Members	..	..	..	Senator J.B. Keeffe
				Senator the Hon. J.E. Marriott
				Senator G.T. McLaren
				Senator J.J. Webster
				Mr S.E. Calder, D.F.C., M.P.
				Mr J. FitzPatrick, M.P.
				Hon. C.R. Kelly, M.P.
				Mr L.G. Wallis, M.P.
Clerk to the Committee	..			Mr C.S. Boorman

REPORT FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

1. The Committee was appointed by resolutions of the Senate on 30 August and House of Representatives on 11 September 1973 to -

- (a) examine and report on measures that might be taken in the long and short term to provide the Northern Territory with responsible self-government in relation to local affairs - including appropriate divisions of legislative and executive responsibility at the National and Territorial or other level - having regard to:
 - (i) the Government's wish to establish a fully elected Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory by 31 December 1974;
 - (ii) the relationship that will need to exist between a local executive and the National Government;
 - (iii) the size, composition and diversity of interest of the population of the Territory including the special difficulty of providing for effective participation by the Aboriginal people in a political system which is alien to their traditional culture;
 - (iv) the extent to which the people of the Northern Territory wish to accept greater responsibility for its government;
 - (v) any other special considerations which the committee considers relevant to its conclusions;
 - (vi) financial arrangements; and
- (b) to inquire into and report on such matters relating to the Northern Territory as are referred to it -
 - (i) by the Minister for the Northern Territory; or
 - (ii) by resolution of either House of the Parliament.

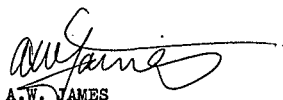
2. On 29 September 1973 the Committee resolved to proceed forthwith on an inquiry into forms of government and constitutional development in the Northern Territory.

3. The inquiry is well advanced. Sixteen days of public hearings have been held and twenty-seven organisations and twenty individuals (including ten Legislative Councillors of the Northern Territory) have given evidence before the Committee. An additional eleven organisations and two individuals remain to be heard.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that -

- (i) the Joint Committee on the Northern Territory be re-appointed in the new Parliament;
- (ii) the unfinished inquiry be resumed by the new Committee;
- (iii) the records, papers and documents of the unfinished inquiry be made available to the new Committee.


A.W. JAMES

Chairman

April 1974

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