

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

OF AUSTRALIA

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Report from

the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON AUSTRALIA'S DIPLOMATIC
REPRESENTATION IN AFRICA AND ADJACENT
INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND STATES

(December 1983)

c Commonwealth of Australia 1983 ISBN 0 644 03014 3

Printed by C.J. Thompson, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra

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Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON AUSTRALIA'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN APRICA AND ADJACENT INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND STATES

(December 1983)

Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, December 1983

Terms of reference

On 4 December 1980, at its first meeting during the last Parliament, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence combined the Sub-Committee on Southern Africa and the Sub-Committee on the Middle East into a new Sub-Committee on Southern Africa and the Middle East. The terms of reference for the new Sub-Committee were:

- . That the Sub-Committee consider, investigate and report to the full Committee on the significance of events in Southern Africa, with particular reference to the economic, political, social and strategic implications for Australia.
- Monitor the political, economic and strategic situation in the Middle East and peripheral countries, and report on any significant events and their possible effects on Australia.

On 8 September 1981, the Sub-Committee's title was altered to 'Sub-Committee on Middle Eastern and African Affairs', and its terms of reference were altered to read as follows:

Monitor the Middle East and peripheral countries, Africa, and the Indian Ocean, and report to the full Committee from time to time on significant developments.

On 19 August 1982 the Sub-Committee agreed to undertake the following inquiry under the above terms of reference:

 Examine the geo-political situation in the Horn of Africa and peripheral countries, and report to the Parliament, through the full Committee.

Parliament was dissolved on 4 February 1983. On 24 May 1983, at its first meeting during the present Parliament, the Joint Committee re-established the Sub-Committee. At a subsequent meeting it was agreed that the Sub-Committee should continue with its general terms of reference for the time being, and proceed to complete the inquiry into the Horn of Africa commenced in the previous Parliament. This Report was prepared pursuant to the Sub-Committee's general terms of reference in relation to the monitoring of Africa.

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Membership of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

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Chairman: Hon. W.L. Morrison, MP

Deputy Chairman: Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, MP

Senator R.C. Elstob Senator R. Hill Senator G.N. Jones Senator A.W.R. Lewis Senator D.J. MacGibbon Senator K.W. Sibraa Senator M.C. Tate

Mr G.N. Bilney, MP
Mr D.E. Charles, MP
Mr W.P. Coleman, MP
Mr M.D. Cross, MP
Mr R.F. Edwards, MP
Mr J. Gayler, MP
Hon. R.J. Groom, MP
Mr R. Jacobi, MP
Bon. R.C. Katter, MP
Dr R.E. Klugman, MP
Mr S.A. Lusher, MP
Mr R.F. Shipton, MP

Membership of the Sub-Committee on Middle Eastern and African Affairs

Chairman: Senator K.W. Sibraa Senator R. Hill Senator G.N. Jones Mr W.P. Coleman, MP Mr R. Jacobi, MP Mr S.A. Lusher, MP

Ex officio members of the Sub-Committee

Hon. W.L. Morrison, MP Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, MP

Secretary to the Sub-Committee

Mr R.J. Wiber Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Membership of the Sub-Committee on Middle Eastern and African Affairs during the 32nd Parliament

Chairman: Hon. J.D.M. Dobie, MP Deputy Chairman: Senator K.W. Sibraa Senator R. Hill* Mr K.C. Beazley, MP Mr A.C. Holding, MP Mr D.F. Jull, MP Mr R.M. McLean, MP

(*Senator Hill joined the Sub-Committee on 20 October 1981 replacing Senator J.P. Sim, who retired on 30 June 1981)

Introduction

- 1. Since the creation of the Sub-Committee on Southern Africa on 2 May 1978, and during the course of inquiries held by it and its successors, including the present Sub-Committee, members have become aware of a number of issues relating to Australia's diplomatic representation in Africa. Drawing on the experience gained by the Sub-Committee the current Committee, having considered a draft Report on these issues prepared by the Sub-Committee on Middle Eastern and African Affairs, has agreed to this Report on Australia's diplomatic representation in Africa.
- 2. The issues which prompted the Sub-Committee to address this question at the present time arose during the course of its inquiry into the Horn of Africa. During the Horn of Africa number ٥£ allegations were made concerning misappropriation of aid in Ethiopia. ADAB told the Sub-Committee its inability to monitor our aid contributions thoroughly is due to lack of staff resources. The importance of Ethiopia in the OAU became apparent during the year when Ethiopia played a role in encouraging member Governments Organization to come together for the Nineteenth Summit meeting in Addis Ababa, after internal dissension in the OAU had threatened the Organization's future.
- 3. During the Sub-Committee's Horn inquiry it became clear that the material supplied from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the briefings provided by officers were inadequate, especially in relation to political developments in Somalia and Ethiopia, and reflected a lack of resources allocated to the area.
- 4. During 1983 Libya invaded Chad, formerly part of French Equatorial Africa. The invasion has repercussions for a number of African countries, especially those with Muslim populations,

including Commonwealth countries and former French colonies. Australia does not have resident representation in any French speaking former colony of Africa (excluding North Africa). Consequently a comprehensive, official and independent Australian assessment of events in Chad and their significance for Africa generally could not be available to either the Government or the Committee.

- 5. The Sub-Committee's activities and monitoring of a number of developments in Africa, including especially the gaining of independence by Zimbabwe, the Namibia question, and the situation on the Horn of Africa raised a number of questions relating to the appropriateness of our diplomatic representation in Africa.
- 6. The Sub-Committee on Middle Eastern and African Affairs has terms of reference which include a monitoring role in respect of all Africa and the Indian Ocean. Therefore the Committee offers the following comments in respect of Australia's diplomatic representation in Africa and the Indian Ocean island states to which Australian posts in Africa are currently accredited.
- 7. There are constraints on Australia's ability to expand diplomatic representation in Africa and the Indian Ocean island states because of a lack of resources and the need for expenditure restraint. The Committee is of the opinion that a reordering of priorities, a reallocation of resources, and a change in the method of operation of our posts in Africa may give us better representation and a better understanding of African affairs without the need for a large increase in expenditure. The Committee is impressed with the small but effective High Commission Australia maintains at Lusaka. This could provide a cost effective model for the type of operation Australia should consider for other African countries. It may

well be that existing posts in certain countries which rated a high priority in times past and which no longer occupy such an influential position could be downgraded or closed down.

The Current Situation

8. Australia's posts on the African continent, and the countries to which they are accredited, are listed below:

AUSTRALIA'S REPRESENTATION IN AFRICA

POST	DAIE ESTABLISHED	CURRENT STATUS OF MISSION	DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION RESPONSIBLE	DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED AT POST	POSTS RESPONSIBILITIES (COUNTRY OR ORGANISATION)	(A), (NRA), (VR), (RR) (CR), (STR) (for Keys see last page)
Accra	Feb 1958	High Commission	Central and Southern Africa	Poreign Affairs	Ghana Ivory Coast Senegal Sierra Leone Togo Upper Volta Guinea Guinea Bissau The Gambia Kali	A, W, RB, CR NRA, WR, RR, CR NRA, WR, RR, CR WR, WR, CR WR, WR, CR WR, WR, CR WR, WR, CR WR, RR, CR WR, RR, CR WR, RR, CR
Algiers	Jan 1975	Embassy	Mida <u>l</u> e Bast & North Africa	Foreign Affairs Trade	Algeria Tunisia Mauritania Western Sahara	A, VR, RR, CR, STR NRA, VR, RR, CR, STR VR, RR, CR RR
Cairo	March 1950	Embassy	Middle East & North Africa	Foreign Affairs Trade Immigration & Ethnic	Egypt. Sudan	A, VR, RR, CR, STR NRA, VR, RR, CR, STR
Cape Town	Kay 1961	Consulate	Central and Southern Africa	Foreign Affairs Immigration & Ethnic Affairs	South Africa n s Namibia	CR (Province of the Cape of Good Hope) CR see also Pretoria,

(R), (NRA), (VR), (RR) (CR), (STR) (for keys see last page)	is) CR is) don)			
(A), (NRA), (VR), (RR) (CR), (STR) (for keys see last pag	A, WR, RR, CR NRA, WR, RR, CR NRA, WR, RR, CR NRA, WR (with Paris) WR, RR (with Paris) WR, RR (with London) WR, RR, CR WR, RR, CR	A, VR, RR, CR NRA, VR, RR, CR NRA, VR, RR, CR		# 68888 8688
(A), (NRA), (CR), (STR) (for keys s	A, VR, RR, CR NRA, VR, RR, CR NRA, VR, RR, CR NRA, VR, RR (with Pau VR, RR (with Lou VR, RR (with Lou VR, RR, CR	, VR, RI RA, VR, RA, VR,	STR, CR STR STR STR	A, VR, RR, CR WR, RR, CR
POSTS (RESPONSIBILITIES ((COUNTRY OR . (COUNTRY OR . (COUN	Tanzania A Madagascar NN Mauritius NN Comoros Reunion V Reinion V Ocean Territories V Burundi	Zimbabwe A Mozambique N Botswana N	South Africa S Botswana SY Lesotho SY Swaziland S	Nigeria A Zaire Zaire V Niger V Cameroon Canexoon V Gebral Repl. Repl. V Congo Repl. V Congo V Congo Sagatorial Galane V Congo V Congo V Congo V Congo V Sagatorial Sagatorial
DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED AT POST	Foreign Affairs	Foreign Affairs	Trade	Foreign Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION RESPONSIBLE	Central and Southern Africa	Central Southern Africa	Dept of Trade	Central and Southern Africa
CURRENT STATUS OF MISSION	High Commission	High Comilston	Trade Commission	High Commission
date established	Aug 1962	Apr 1980 (liaison office est. Dec 1979)	1947	Sept 1960
rece	Dar es Selom .	Harare	Johannes- burg	Lagos

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POST	DATE ESTRBLISHED	CURRENT STATUS OF MISSION	DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION RESPONSIBLE	DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED AT POST	POSTS RESPONSIBILITIES (COUNTRY OR ORGANISATION)	(A), (NRA), (VR), (NR) (CR), (STR) (for keys see last page)
Drsska	Aug 1980 (temp. nission established July 1970)	High Cormission	Central and Southern Africa	Foreign Affairs	Zambia Angola Malawi	A, VR, RR, CR VR, RR, CR NRA, VR, RR, CR
Nairobi	Sept 1965	High Commission	Central and Southern Africa IN Social and	Foreign Affairs Trade Trade Immigration & Ethnic Affairs	Kenya Ethiopia Uganda Seychalles Seomlia Djibouti Zimbabwe Mwuritius Tamzania Mwuritius Tamzania Mwuritius Gamea Hangola Gamea Central African Repub Comeor Islands Coongo Coongo Coongo Gongo Gon	A, Wa, Re, Ch, STR NNA, Wa, Re, Ch, STR NNA, Wa, Re, Ch, STR Wa, Re, Ch, STR Wa, Re, Ch, STR Wa, Re, Ch, STR

TSOS	DATE	CURRENT S STATUS OF MISSICN	DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION RESPONSIBLE	DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED AT POST	POSTS RESPONSIBLITIES (COUNTRY OR ORGANISATION)	(A), (NRA), (VR), (RK) (CR), (SIR) (for keys see last page)
Pairobi (contd)	contd)				Zaire Upper Volta Toego Sierra Leone Nigerra Leone Nozambique Morambique San Tome Reunion Reunion Revanda UNEP UNEP UNCHS OAU	STR STR STR STR STR STR STR STR STR STR
Pretoria	Aug 1946	Suppress A	Central and Southern Africa	Foreign Affeats Imagration & Ethnic Affeats	South Africa Swaziland Lesotho Namibia	A, VR, RR, CR in the province of Transval, Orange Free State and Natal Natal NR, VR, CR NR, VR, RR, CR NR, NR, RR, CR See also Johannesburg and Capetown.
Key	A NEA VZ RR RR CR	Resident Accreditation Non Resident Accreditation Visitury Responsibility Reporting Responsibility Consular Responsibility Accreditation of Trade Com	Non Resident Accreditation Non Resident Accreditation Stating Responsibility Responsibility Consular Responsibility Accreditation of Trade Commissioner/Commercial Counsellor/areas covered by Trade representation	rcial Counsellor	areas covered by Trac	e representation

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Australia's Diplomatic Relations with Ethiopia

- 9. At present Australia has diplomatic relations with Ethiopia at Ambassadorial level. Australia's Ambassador to Ethiopia is resident in Nairobi while Ethiopia's Ambassador to Australia is resident in Tokyo. In the case of Ethiopia, Australia's Ambassador and other staff from Nairobi travel to Ethiopia two or three times per year. In addition, Canberra based personnel of ADAB visit Ethiopia at least once per year to monitor our aid activities.
- 10. The Committee considers that Australia's coverage of developments in Ethiopia needs to be improved for the following reasons:
 - (a) the need to monitor the effectiveness of Australian development assistance and humanitarian aid;
 - (b) the location of the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa;
 - (c) the need for more thorough reporting of political, economic and strategic developments on the Horn;
 - (d) Ethiopia's significance as a participant in Africa's cultural, economic and political development, particularly as a member of the OAU; and
 - (e) Because of the special place and status Ethiopia enjoys in Africa because it has remained independent (except for a brief period during the Italian occupation) since antiquity.

11. The Committee considers that valid reasons exist for the upgrading of Australia's representation in Ethiopia and recommends that consideration be given to the establishment of a mission resident in Addis Ababa. The Committee is cognizant that financial constraints and Australia's other representational priorities will be factors associated with such a decision. As in the case with other countries with which Australia has diplomatic relations the Committee notes that the fact of having diplomatic relations does not of itself indicate approval of the other Government's policies or actions.

Australia's Diplomatic Representation with Somalia

- 12. Australia's High Commission in Nairobi has a visiting responsibility for Somalia while Somalia's Ambassador to Australia is resident in Beijing.
- 13. The Committee considered whether Australia should open a post at Mogadishu. During the Horn of Africa inquiry it was apparent that some evidence provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs on Somalia was superficial. This may have been because of a lack of resources and the fact that staff from our High Commission in Nairobi only travel to Somalia infrequently.
- 14. In considering whether Australia should open a permanent diplomatic mission at Mogadishu, the Committee made the following comparisons with Addis Ababa:
 - (a) Somalia has approximately one-tenth of the population of Ethiopia; and
 - (b) Somalia is not as pre-eminent in the OAU as Ethiopia and does not have the same influence in African affairs.

15. The Committee has concluded that although the opening of a post in Mogadishu cannot be justified given Australia's other priorities and the scarcity of financial resources, close attention should be paid by the Department of Foreign Affairs to developments in Somalia.

Francophone Africa

16. Another area where Australia does not have resident representation, and therefore lacks the capacity for independent assessment of events, is in Francophone Africa, including Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. Other former French colonies in Africa (excluding North Africa) include Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, The Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta. Currently these countries are serviced from missions resident in former British colonies, which the Committee considers inappropriate. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to opening a post in a former French colony. Such a post could service other Francophone countries.

Indian Ocean Island States

17. The Committee draws attention to the naval presence of the major powers in the Indian Ocean and around the Horn of Africa. The port facilities used by the Soviet Union in Ethiopia, by France in Djibouti, and by the United States in Somalia and Kenya all contribute to the ability of the major powers to deploy significant naval forces into the Indian Ocean. Australia's own interests in deploying naval forces in the Indian Ocean were referred to by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in August. Australian surveillance aircraft land at the US base at Diego Garcia. There is some competition among the major powers at present to seek port facilities among the Indian Ocean island states. Contacts are growing between Australia and Mauritius.

- 18. At present Australia's High Commission in Nairobi is accredited to the Seychelles and our High Commission in Dar es Salaam is accredited to Madagascar and Mauritius, and also looks after Australia's interests in the Comoros and Reunion. This arrangement causes unnecessary logistical difficulties, especially in relation to air transport to and from the posts and the respective countries.
- 19. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to opening a post at Mauritius to promote Australia's interests in Mauritius itself and among the island states of the Indian Ocean. In the Committee's view such a post would be a more rational use of resources than exists at present and would improve considerably our ability to promote our interests in this strategically important region.

THE HON. W.L. MORRISON, M.P. Chairman
December 1983



JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

33-17

MAIN COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held at 7:45 pm in Senate Committee Room 6 Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday, 1 December

Present:

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Hon. W.L. Morrison, MP(Chairman)

Senator R. Hill Senator G.N. Jones Senator K.W. Sibraa Mr G.N. Bilney, MP Mr M.D. Cross; MP Mr R.F. Edwards, MP

Mr R. Jacobi, MP

Apologies:

Senator A.W.R. Lewis Senator D.J. MacGibbon Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, MP

Mr J. Gayler, MP

Minutes of Previous Meeting 1.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 1983 were confirmed.

Moved: Seconded: Senator Sibraa Senator Hill

3. Report - Some Observations on Australia's Diplomatic Representation in Africa and Adjacent Indian Ocean Island States.

Consideration resumed on the draft report

paragraph 4 was reconsidered, amended and agreed to paragraph 11 was reconsidered, amended and agreed to paragraphs 12, 13, 18, 19, 21 and 22 were reconsidered, amended and agreed to.

Resolved - On the motion of Senator Hill,

That the report as amended be the report of the Committee.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Jacobi

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That the title be agreed to.

The Chairman asked that any dissents to the report be lodged with the Secretary by 4:00 pm on Friday, 2 December 1983.

6. Adjournment

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At 8:35 pm the Committee adjourned until 8:30 am on Wednesday, 7 December 1983.

CONFIRMED:

The Hon. W.L. Morrison, M.P. Chairman



JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANSERRA, A.C.T. 2600

33-16

MAIN COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.40 am in Senate Committee Room 3 Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday 30 November 1983

Present:

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Apologies:

Hon. W.L. Morrison, MP(Chairman)
Senator R.C. Elstob
Senator R. Hill
Senator G.N. Jones
Senator A.W.R. Lewis
Senator K.W. Sibraa
Mr G.N. Bilney, MP
Mr D.E. Charles, MP
Mr W.P. Coleman, MP
Mr M.D. Cross, MP
Mr R.F. Edwards, MP
Mr J. Gayler, MP
Hon. R.J. Groom, MP
Mr R. Jacobi, MP
Hon. R.C. Katter, MP

Senator D.J. MacGibbon Dr R.E. Klugman, MP

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 1983 were confirmed.

Moved: Senator Elstob Seconded: Mr Cross

7. Draft Report - The Horn of Africa

Senator Sibraa reported the draft report from Sub-Committee ${\bf B}$ on the Horn of Africa had now been split up into 3 reports.

Consideration commenced on the draft report

Some Observations on Australia's Diplomatic Representation in Africa and Adjacent Indian Ocean Island States

Paragraph 1 agreed to

Paragraph 2 agreed to

Paragraph 3 amended and agreed to Paragraph 4 amended and agreed to Paragraph 5 amended and agreed to Paragraph 6 amended and agreed to Paragraph 7 amended and agreed to Paragraph 8 withdrawn Paragraph 9 agreed to Paragraph 10 amended and agreed to Paragraph 11 withdrawn Paragraph 12 deferred Paragraph 13 deferred Paragraph 14 agreed to Paragraph 15 amended and agreed to Paragraph 16 amended and agreed to Paragraph 17 agreed to Paragraph 18 deferred Paragraph 19 deferred Paragraph 20 agreed to Paragraph 21 deferred Paragraph 22 deferred

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At 9.59 a.m. the Committee on Thursday 1 December.

adjourned until /.su p.m.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2400 33~15

MAIN COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.35 am in Senate Committee Rooms 1 & 2 Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday, 16 November 1983

Present:

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Apologies:

Hon. W.L. Morrison, MP (Chairman) Senator D.J. MacGibbon Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, MP (Deputy Chairman)

Senator R.C. Elstob Senator R. Hill Senator G.N. Jones Senator A.W.R. Lewis Senator K.W. Sibraa Mr G.N. Bilney, MP Mr D.E. Charles, MP Mr W.F. Coleman, MP Mr M.D. Cross, MP Mr R.F. Edwards, MP Mr J. Gayler, MP Mr R. Jacobi, MP Hon. R.C. Katter, MP Dr R.E. Klugman, MP

Mr S.A. Lusher, MP Mr R.F. Shipton, MP

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 1983 were confirmed.

Moved: Senator Jones Seconded: Senator Hill

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 1983 were confirmed.

Moved: Mr Cross Seconded: Mr Charles

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The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 1983 were confirmed.

Moved: Mr Cross Seconded: Mr Charles

6. Draft Report - The Horn of Africa

Senator Sibraa brought up for consideration the draft report from Sub-Committee B on the Horn of Africa.

The Chairman suggested that the report could be better considered as three separate reports, one dealing with Australian aid, another dealing with diplomatic representation in Africa and the third a background document on the Horn of Africa.

After discussion it was agreed:

- that consideration on the draft report be deferred and
- (ii) Senator Sibraa investigate the possibility of three separate reports being submitted to the Committee members for consideration at the meeting on 30 November.

7. Adjournment

At 9.50 am the Committee adjourned until 8.30 am on Wednesday, 30 November 1983.

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

MAIN COMMITTEE

33 - 2

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00 p.m. in Senate Committee Room 3, Parliament House, Canberra, on Tuesday, 24 May 1983.

Present

: Hon. W.L. Morrison, M.P. (Chairman)
Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, M.P. (Deputy Chairman)

Senator R.C. Elstob Senator R. Hill Senator G.N. Jones Senator A.W.R. Lewis Senator K.W. Sibraa Senator M.C. Tate Mr D.E. Charles, M.P. Mr W.D. Cross, M.P. Mr M.D. Cross, M.P. Mr R.F. Edwards, M.P. Mr J. Gayler, M.P. Hon. R.J. Groom, M.P. Hon. R.J. Klugman, M.P. Mr R.F. Shipton, M.P. Mr R.F. Shipton, M.P.

Apologies

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: Mr S.A. Lusher, M.P. Mr G.N. Bilney, M.P. Senator D.J. MacGibbon

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 1983, were accepted. Moved: Mr Katter; Seconded: Senator Elstob.

3. Appointment of Sub-Committees and Membership of Sub-Committees

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Pursuant to Clause 7 of the Committee's Resolution of Establishment, it was agreed that three Sub-Committees to be known as 'A', 'B' and 'C' be appointed and that the following members be appointed to the Sub-Committees:

Sub-Committee A - The Pacific Basin

Senator R.C. Elstob Hon. R.J. Groom, M.P. Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, M.P. Senator A.W.R. Lewis Dr R.E. Klugman, M.P. Mr G.N. Bilney, M.P. Mr D.E. Charles, M.P. Senator M.C. Tate

Sub-Committee B - Middle East and African Affairs

Senator K.W. Sibraa Mr R. Jacobi, M.P. Senator R. Hill Senator G.N. Jones Mr W.P. Coleman, M.P. Mr S.A. Lusher, M.P.

Sub-Committee C - Defence Matters

Hon. R. C. Katter, M.P.
Mr J. Gayler, M.P.
Mr M.D. Cross, M.P.
S I T T T

4. Reports from Sub-Committee Chairmen

Sub-Committee B

Senator Sibraa reported that he had been elected Chairman and that a Deputy Chairman would be appointed at a later date.

The Sub-Committee would not proceed with the Sinai Force reference. The Sub-Committee would continue with the Horn of Africa reference and hoped to have a briefing by the Department of Foreign Affairs early in June. No additional staffing requirements were foreseen before the Budget Session but the Sub-Committee would need to keep the existing staff.

The Sub-Committee would meet with the Ethiopian Ambassador at lunchtime on 26 May, and other interested members were invited to attend.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

CONFIRMED:

A Production of the