

MESSAGE FOR SECRETARY FROM HAY  
25.1.67

ADMR PNG 111

Territories  
CANBERRA

134 For Warwick Smith from Hay. Reference telephone conversation 22 January Administration view accords with your own viz we should take the initiative in presenting to the public the importance of the C.R.A. operation succeeding. Suggested guidelines for use to press, on Administration radio, in discussions with private groups and in normal communication activity by field officers with leaders in local government councils and in villages are:

- (1) The Kieta Mining Development was strongly supported in House.
- (2) C.R.A. is conducting exploratory operations. Its activities conform to the law. The prospecting authorities were granted after due process. Already during exploratory operations compensation for damage is paid.
- (3) If actual mining operations begin then people will get compensation for damage and land rental. Government would certainly help them to get other land so that they would not be deprived of capacity to grow sufficient food. With the passage of the Lapun amendment (which is subject to examination from certain legal angles which will not affect payment of 5% to indigenous landowners) they will also get direct financial gain.
- (4) The operation will be of benefit to the people of the area as well as to the Territory as a whole. Should a minority, however much we regret that some changes in their way of life are involved, be able to veto a project which will be vitally importance to the future of the Territory. Particularly when they will be properly compensated.
- (5) The people are not yet responsive but the process of explaining the activities of the C.R.A. will go on. This process of explanation rests largely with Administration officers e.g. Mining Warden, Patrol officers and others in the field. In many areas the views they express have support. People like Mr. Lapun have quite independently tried to explain the operation. The means used to inform the people are often reviewed and even now an officer is being sent to the area for the second time in four weeks to check of their efficacy.
- (6) The Administration is in constant touch with missionaries in the area. Some missionaries quite sincerely oppose any form of industrialisation in some areas e.g. of United States. Industrialisation does involve problems. But it is essential to economic progress. Those who set themselves against industrialisation and encourage people to resist it in effect place an obstacle in the path to economic development. This is a very heavy responsibility for any group to take. It is surely wrong to try to deprive people of the benefits of progress, such as roads, cash wages, modernisation, education. This viewpoint has been and is being firmly put to the missions. It has the support of the House of Assembly.

25.1.67

2.

- (7) Looking to future exploration for minerals in the Territory as a whole the Administration takes particular care to explain to the people involved the purpose of the exploration. To reduce chances of misunderstanding after grant of permit Administration will co-operate with companies in ensuring staff are briefed on indigenous traditions and values.

Administrator