

FORECASTS

CANBERRA: Cool, cloudy periods. Maximum 10 degrees.
LAKE: Light to moderate southerly winds.
S. TABLELANDS: Cold, scattered showers. Heavy snow to below 1000 metres.
S. COAST: Cold, showers, strong winds, heavy swell.
Details — Page 26.

The Canberra Times

To serve the National City and through it the Nation

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PM rejects criticism, praises US envoy

By GAY DAVIDSON, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, seized an opportunity presented yesterday at his press conference to launch a vehement attack on the chairman of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, Senator Brown, and to speak with warm praise of the US ambassador, Mr Marshall Green.

The forcefulness of both the attack and the praise was unexpected. They related to Senator Brown alleging a week ago that Mr Green was "the top US hatchet man" and that he had been sent to Australia to protect American financial interests and the maintenance of its military installations.

After saying twice that he did not propose to dignify or magnify Senator Brown's attack, and also offering thanks for the opportunity to refute any suggestions that he might have approved it, Mr Whitlam said that it was "a miserable, in fact a cowardly thing to attack an ambassador; an ambassador cannot reply."

If Senator Brown had any information that Mr Green had not conducted himself with propriety in the present situation, it was his duty to give it to the Foreign Minister or the Prime Minister.

"He has given no such information," Mr Whitlam said. "I don't believe there is any such information." Mr Whitlam said that he had known Mr Green for 10 years and "if you all know a singularly alert, active and articulate man, Mr Green is one of the most experienced of America's diplomats."

"Not only did the Government approve of his appointment — that's obvious, of course, as he became ambassador here — but it welcomed his appointment."

"Mr Green is a man whose experience and qualifications would have entitled him to the embassies in Tokyo, or the liaison office in Peking."

"I believe it's a singular indication of the importance America attaches to her relations with Australia that Mr Green is appointed to Canberra."

Mr Whitlam added that he had seen Mr Green since the matter arose and "Mr Green doesn't need to be reassured of my attitude to him or to his country."

Yesterday afternoon, Mr Green responded by sending a note to Mr Whitlam expressing his appreciation of the statement. The US embassy's attitude, as expressed by

another senior diplomat, was that "it was a fine, positive statement, and helpful."

Senator Brown was more equivocal, saying on television last night that he accepted Mr Whitlam's criticism, but he did not accept that his attack had been cowardly.

"I do not take too kindly to the words he used but bearing in mind the context, and the fact that Mr Whitlam does not know what I do, I can accept them," Senator Brown said.

Senator Brown explained that he made the original statement in a telegram at the declaration of the Senate poll in Victoria because if he had given his information to such busy men as the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, it would have been dealt with "down the line" and become bogged down.

Declined to name

Declining to name and "put at risk" a businessman who was the source of his information, Senator Brown said that the ambassador had addressed business groups during the election and advocated the return to a Liberal Government. He said he was sure of his information, though it had been denied by the US Embassy.

Senator Brown said that he was not at all sure that the Government, having been in office only 17 months, was aware of a lot of things which it should know about. He was not sure that the security sources, ASIO, MO9 and ASIS were as forthcoming as they might be.

The Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr Peacock, also availed himself of the opportunity to remark that Mr Whitlam had belatedly acted to ensure Senator Brown's delay was a matter of regret.

Further attack on Mr Green

MELBOURNE, Tuesday. — Another Victorian Labor Senator has attacked Mr Green.

Senator Primmer said tonight he was prepared to back the attack made on the Ambassador last week by Senator Brown.

"I have known the man [Senator Brown] for 18-20 years and I am prepared to go along with what he said," Senator Primmer said.

"Senator Brown obviously has some information and I am sure when this comes out he will be proved right."

He was confident the Victorian branch of the

ALP would back Senator Brown.

Senator Primmer and five other Victorian ALP members told the US Consul-General in Melbourne, Mr Brand, today that they agreed with Senator Brown's attack on Mr Green.

They asked Mr Brand that Mr Green be withdrawn.

Mr Brand told the deputations their views would be relayed to the US Government.

Three men threw a can of pink paint on the floor and ransacked the American Chamber of Commerce office in Melbourne today.

Desks were up-ended and wall hangings torn down in the brief raid on the office, in the lower plaza of the Southern Cross building.

Widow is President

BEUNOS AIRES, Tuesday (AAP-Reuters). — President Isabel Peron, 43, has taken over in Argentina after the death yesterday of her husband, the former President Juan Peron, 78.

Mrs Peron has appealed for unity to help her "guide the nation's destiny".

People flock to honour dead leader. — Page 5.



Heart-transplant patient Mr Ross Hutchinson pedals his way to fitness at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. Mr Hutchinson, 53, is using the special exercise bicycle to strengthen his leg muscles which have been weakened by almost five months in bed. It is expected he might be discharged from hospital in about 10 days.

Joint land use to be studied

Cabinet has agreed to an exploration of the possibility of joint ventures with private enterprise in the development of larger-scale office blocks and shopping malls in Canberra.

There is no precise scheme at the moment but the Department of the Capital Territory is working on the details, in consultation with Treasury, Urban and Regional Development and the National Capital Development Commission.

The Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr Bryant, said last night it was envisaged that the Government could share profits with private enterprise in proportion to their respective inputs.

The Government could contribute the land, Mr Bryant said, and private enterprise could contribute buildings and management expertise.

Could be simpler

Such a system could be a simpler method of determining an appropriate return to the Commonwealth than a land-rent system; the value of a property would be determined by its rent-return value, and the Commonwealth's share would remain a fixed proportion of that value set by the market.

Mr Bryant also said that the Government had decided to continue to grant business leases in Canberra for an annual land rent, in line with its object of retaining for the community a continuing interest in the profitability of land.

"We have reversed the previous Government's policy which destroyed much of the benefits which should accrue to the people," Mr Bryant said.

"The Labor Government's policy allows people to enter into business enterprises without a large capital payment for the land. It is hoped that people with more modest capital resources will now be able to enter a field which has been the monopoly of big business."

However, the application of the policy reversal, which has been in operation for a few weeks now, is to be modified in the light of experience — the department has had no takes for a large office site in Civic, and while one at Phillip has sold there have been only about a dozen offers for some 42 sites at Fyshwick.

The successful applicants for the Phillip and Fyshwick sites are to have the option of withdrawing their offers and these leases will be advertised under the new conditions — or they may accept the leases under the conditions which applied when they lodged their tenders.

At present the leases for business sites are granted on the basis of an annual land rent after tenders have been called for the lease. A reserve rent is fixed, arrived at by applying the long-term bond rate to the current value of the site.

The rent is reviewed every three years during the term of the lease and the reassessed rent is the three-year average of the long-term bond rate applied to the reappraised site value.

Continued on Page 3.

N.A.C.C. AGREES TO CHANGES

A delegation from the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee had agreed to amend the NACC's proposed constitution, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh said yesterday.

Senator Cavanagh began two days of talks in Sydney yesterday with the delegation. Earlier this year, he described the role

of the executive, which was proposed for the NACC by its members, as "too powerful".

Senator Cavanagh said in a statement issued in Canberra that the NACC delegates had agreed to confer with their legal adviser on redrafting their proposed constitution.

He said it was expected the changes would be completed when talks resumed today.

Mountain development by the adoption, in different parts of the mountains, of different courses of action.

The "alternative futures" range from mass public acquisition of undeveloped land to ensure virtually no further urban development takes place, and so preserving the environment, to urbanisation of all physically suitable land not already in parks or other open space areas, together with increasing the density of development.

Detailing of the five "alternative futures" and their effects is intended to allow residents to decide the future of their own areas, counteracting existing imbalances in Blue

Rate rise of 28% planned

By BRUCE WRIGHT, City Reporter

The Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr Bryant, proposes to increase general rates on residential properties in Canberra by more than 28%.

He proposes also a 13% increase in the basic water rate, a 20% increase in the rate for excess water, a 6% increase in the basic sewerage rate, and a 66-2/3% increase in the rate for additional flushing units in commercial premises.

His proposal on general rates is for an average increase on commercial and residential properties combined of 15%, as forecasted in the Canberra Times early last month.

But because the new rate will be based on new valuations, increases will vary widely.

The proposed rates are:

GENERAL RATE: Increase from 1.1637c in the dollar (equivalent rate at the new values to the 2.4345c in the dollar which was the rate last year) to 1.3387c in the dollar. This will increase the average general rate on a residential property from \$87.16 to \$111.78.

WATER RATE: Increase the basic charge from \$27 to \$30.50 a year. Increase the rate for excess water from 10c per kilolitre to 12c per kilolitre.

SEWERAGE RATE: Increase the basic charge from \$25 to \$26.50 a year. Increase the rate for additional flushing units in commercial premises from \$15 to \$25 a year and in churches, schools and charitable institutions from \$12.50 to \$13.25 a year.

Amount in dollar down

Mr Bryant's proposals, details of which were issued yesterday by the ACT Advisory Council, have still to be considered by the council, but it is unlikely the council will be able to persuade Mr Bryant to make significant changes.

The new valuations have more than doubled the total rateable value of land in the ACT, but this has no effect on average rate increases as the rate in the dollar is to be lowered to counteract this.

But they have also changed the relative value between residential and commercial land, and within each category.

The change in relative value between commercial and residential values will mean that the average increase in rates on commercial properties will be significantly less than the 15% overall average, and the average increase on residential properties will be about 28.2%.

But the average increase will have little meaning for many individual leaseholders.

On some properties (those on which valuations have no more than doubled) the increase will be comparatively slight. On others (those on which valuations have been increased substantially more than two-fold) increases will range up to about 100%.

Mr Bryant has not yet formally determined the new values, but it is known that values on some properties, particularly those in suburbs which were on the outskirts of Canberra in 1970 but are not outer suburbs now, have increased three-fold and more.

General rates on a block of which the valuation has risen from \$2,200 to \$6,800 will rise from about \$53.50 to \$91, an increase of 66%.

The valuations on some leases are believed to be so much higher than rates will double.

Valuations to be posted

The new valuations should be formally determined by Mr Bryant and posted to ratepayers this month.

The proposals will increase the average general rate on a residential property in Canberra from \$87.16 to \$111.78, about \$14 higher than the average of the State capitals.

The water rate for a residential property will rise from \$27 to \$30.50, about the same as the average of the State capitals. The sewerage rate on residential properties will rise by \$1.50 to \$26.50, little more than

half the average of the State capitals' rates.

The proposals are designed to make the general services account balance leave a deficit of \$533,658 in the water supply account and provide a surplus of \$6,443 in the sewerage services account.

The budget makes no allowance for expected cost increases estimated to total about \$830,000.

But it also makes no allowance for possible contributions towards the Federal Government towards library services, street cleaning, parks and gardens and street lighting, all of which (according to an appendix to the budget) reflect the national capital aspect of the various municipal areas.

"Nor does it make an allowance for possible contributions towards water supply and sewerage headworks or many of the other matters currently being considered by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the ACT," the appendix says.

"Firm decisions resulting from the committee's findings will eventually resolve these 'grey areas'."

In a letter to the council, Mr Bryant said the budget had been prepared "in the knowledge that funds appropriated for 1974-1975 will be subject to the usual budgetary considerations."

"In the current climate it is fairly clear that there

Scrap free health plan, say doctors

A meeting of ACT Visiting Medical Officers decided last night to urge the Minister for Health, Dr Everingham, to abandon 'his objectionable proposals' for free health care in the ACT. — Page 3.

ASIO

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, has issued a list of unclassified documents prepared by ASIO between 1962 and 1972 and alleged to have been given to some journalists. — Page 3.

SUMMIT

There was an unexplained gap of several hours in talks between President Nixon and Mr Brezhnev yesterday in Moscow. — Page 5.

PREMIERS

All State Premiers have agreed to a Premiers conference without the presence of the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam. — Page 7.

FARMERS

The Federal Government is considering improvements to its tax-averaging provisions for farmers' incomes. — Page 19.

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See feature article on p. 2.

See front page intro.

The Canberra Times

Wednesday, July 3, 1974

POLITICS AND EDUCATION

THE statement by Mr Chipp, the Opposition spokesman on health and social welfare speaking on the television program 'Federal File' on Sunday, that he was "deeply concerned at the socialist influence through the Teachers Federation against kids in high schools" and that there was a planned campaign to "influence children to become socialists and vote Labor" may or may not be a factual account of what he alleges is taking place in high schools. It is not unlikely that some teachers do set out to recruit supporters for one political party or the other, and in so doing act against the elementary ethics of their profession, but this is not the same thing as an honest and balanced expression of views, particularly if it is given at the request of the students themselves.

The two main issues involved here are whether a teacher should appear to be neutral on all matters of current controversy and whether party politics should be a legitimate subject of discussion in the classroom. It is clearly impossible and undesirable that a teacher should affect to be neutral on all things but one assumes that a case made for one side or the other of an issue is not of the partisan, uncritical, biased, emotional type that tends to disparage people who hold opposite views. "Brainwashing", if one defines this term (used by the television interviewer and apparently accepted by Mr Chipp) as the deliberate use of mental pressure applied by a teacher to achieve a pre-conceived end, is intellectually dishonest and professionally inept, and one is inclined to believe that the vast majority of high-school teachers studiously avoid this kind of tactic. A good teacher expressing personal beliefs — there are obviously situations where this is called for — must adduce credible arguments to explain his position but he should dwell even more on the necessity for his students to develop informed, analytical, critical, and sceptical attitudes in their efforts to arrive at personal judgments.

Intellectual eunuchs

The subject of politics itself, seen as the interplay of groups of people advocating distinct views of the social and economic process and intent on being elected to positions of power, is of course a proper and important one for classroom discussion, especially in the senior high-school grades. The truth would seem to be, however, that classroom treatment of this topic, and of others like the legal system, the Australian Constitution, the courts of justice, and realistic economics, is often too abstract and not sufficiently related to the realities of life. The contemporary Australian scene has thrown up the issue of socialism versus capitalism, of State enterprise versus private enterprise in a great variety of forms and situations. It is a very old debate and one on which future citizens should expect to receive some guidance from their teachers, beginning with clear definitions of the terms and of their application to the circumstances of the Australian environment. This of course can much better be done if the matter of immediate commitment to one political faction or the other is left to the student's own judgment.

Before imputing irresponsible political motives to teachers it is well to remember that the home environment also can be a powerful factor in influencing the future political attitudes of schoolchildren. The close involvement of parents in what goes on in the schools should help to restore a balanced approach to the treatment of political subjects should it ever appear that teachers are abusing their position. But it would be wrong to demand of teachers that they behave as intellectual eunuchs and equally wrong to construe an honest expression of views as an attempt to exercise undue influence. The points to stress are a citizen's obligation to take part in the political process and the need to do so on the basis of information intelligently assimilated, rather than as an emotional, unquestioned response dictated by prejudice or passing fashion.

LETTERS to the Editor

Union attitude

Sir, — Reference reported statements by Mr Rodney Robinson (The Canberra Times, June 26) to the meeting of builders' labourers, particularly his fears of our union "moving in on builders' labourers".

Mr Robinson need have no fears on that score. We would like to plainly state the attitude of our union in order to nail rumours put about by some people intent on stirring strife.

Our union survived 12 or 13 years of de-registration and the BLF should be able to do the same. It is still accepted by us as a kindred union.

The ACT branch of the BWIU never has supported, (and never will support) or recognise breakaway organisations. BLF members will recall that the strongest opponent to a breakaway riggers union from the BLF some years back, was the BWIU. We have had to withstand the formation of a breakaway carpenters' society and a breakaway bricklayers' association; yet we are still alive and kicking. So much for history. Now a word about Canberra.

Given a continuance of responsible leadership by members like Jack Kemp and Don McHugh the BLF will remain intact here, and wherever possible will be supported by us. We cannot imagine ACT employers desiring to upset prevailing industrial harmonious relations and while such remains there should be no cause for any trouble whatsoever in this area.

F. J. McCauley
Secretary,
J. McMAHON
Organiser,
R. J. DRIVER
Organiser
Building Workers Industrial
Union of Australia
ACT branch
Canberra.

Labor's health scheme

Sir, — If Labor's health scheme is introduced in Australia, will most pay more for less? I'm afraid so.

At the moment one has freedom of choice of doctor in hospital, but under Labor's scheme we will be restricted to those doctors employed by public hospitals, in return for the compulsory health levy.

If we choose private accommodation in hospital, Labor's scheme will give rebates of only \$16 per day. At the moment, for \$67 per year, less tax rebate, a single person has freedom of choice of doctor in hospital and a health-insurance rebate of \$22 per day for private accommodation is chosen.

If that person has a taxable annual income of \$6,000, Labor's health tax will cost him \$81 per annum, compared with \$43 under the present scheme, after tax rebate. He can therefore look forward to paying \$38 more each year and in addition lose the choice of doctor in hospital and get \$6 per day less rebate on taking private accommodation in hospital.

If a man with a taxable annual income of \$6,000 has a working wife with a taxable income of \$5,000, Labor's compulsory health insurance will cost them \$148 for the family, compared with a cost of \$86, after tax deduction, under the present scheme. The family will also suffer the disadvantage of reduced or nil choice of doctor in hospital.

The Labor Government's proposal to import 27 full-time salaried specialists to Canberra hospitals will probably drive away many specialists currently in private practice in Canberra who do not want to be employed by the Government.

Both pensioners and taxpayers will have reduced choice of doctor in hospital in Canberra under

Labor's health plan. Could someone please explain any advantages of Labor's scheme?

ROSEMARY WHITLOCK, Rivett.

Fish in the lake

Sir, — I agree with Mr. Bohnert (Letters, June 1) about the fish in Lake Burley Griffin.

When we had the May holidays Mum and I went fishing at Lake Burley Griffin and only got four fish in two days. I like fishing a lot and would like the authorities to put some Murray cod, redfin, bream and trout in the lake, as all we caught were carp.

JOY ANNE CHIPPENDALE
(8 years),
Lyons.

Sir, — As a relative newcomer to Canberra, and having enjoyed the magnificent trout fishing in Lake Burley Griffin over the past three years, I am disappointed at the decision not to continue the annual restocking of trout in conjunction with the introduction of golden perch and other native species to the lake.

At the present moment I would suggest that angling prospects are non-existent.

I am of the opinion that Canberra anglers and their families can ill-afford to lose another locality, particularly as access to local streams is becoming increasingly difficult in the ACT and NSW.

Surely the Department of the Capital Territory could ensure that we have the opportunity to enjoy some sport in the lake until at least various native species are firmly established.

So cannot the fisheries experts please restock the lake with trout and in the meantime (and perhaps in the future) regularly inform the angling fraternity of progress with native fish introduction.

D. F. SMITH
Weston.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Development plan gives the people five choices

By BRUCE WRIGHT, City Reporter

03.07.1974

A NEW strategy plan for development of the Blue Mountains has opened the way for a new emphasis on public participation in city planning.

The strategy plan, drawn up by Urban Systems Corporation Pty Ltd on behalf of the Blue Mountains City Council, details five "alternative futures" and the effects, benefits and drawbacks of each one, and says the next move is for the people of each centre within the area to decide on the "alternative future", modified as necessary, which they want.

Urban Systems has already been asked to establish a program for the massive task of informing the people of all aspects of the plan so they can make fully informed contributions to the public discussion which will be required before decisions can be made.

The program of public information had been made easier by the lack (comparatively at least) of planning jargon in the overall strategy plan.

It is unfortunate, though, that the decision to offer alternatives was not made out of any desire, initially at least, to give the people a large say in the decision-making process.

It was made, according to the introduction to Urban Systems' report, only after "it became ob-

vious that there were a number of deep-seated, and fundamental conflicts which could not be resolved by the preparation of a single management document and without a far greater opportunity for participation in the decision-making process by all groups and individuals who would be affected by the plan.

"These basic conflicts are between conservation and urbanisation, the level of local employment opportunities, industry and commerce that should be provided (self-contained versus a dependent community), and so on," it said.

"It is obvious that there are fundamental choices to be made about the future of the city and its community. The community needs to be aware of these choices and should participate fully in their determination.

"In addition, it became obvious that because of the social and physical structure of the city, the implementation of broad objectives would have vastly different impacts at the local level."

And so a council commission to Urban Systems "to provide a definitive statement of the aims, policies, guidelines and ideas that would effectively provide a framework for the future broad planning, development and conservation of the city" resulted in the postulation of "an initial set of alternative futures or strategies that might lead to the resolution or partial resolution of conflicts."

The effect has been to open

the way for greater public discussion of proposals before decisions are made rather than after the preparation of a formal detailed plan.

The five "futures" offered with forecasts of their effects cover the full range of possibilities from putting a tight belt around existing centres of population to force a complete halt to further urban development, to developing every available piece of land, allowing population to increase from 47,000 to 275,000.

Under the first alternative future residential densities would be kept low, no flats would be permitted, only minor additions to transport and traffic systems would be made. Raw and privately owned land, including land which has been subdivided but is not developed, would be compulsorily acquired (at a total cost of about \$96 million if it was acted upon throughout the area) to conserve and restore the natural environment. Population would be kept to about 47,000.

The second alternative is a modification of the first, to provide for an expansion of urbanisation into all serviced subdivisions, to accommodate about 65,000 people.

It would, according to the report, result in increased pressures on environmentally sensitive areas and extra transportation would be needed.

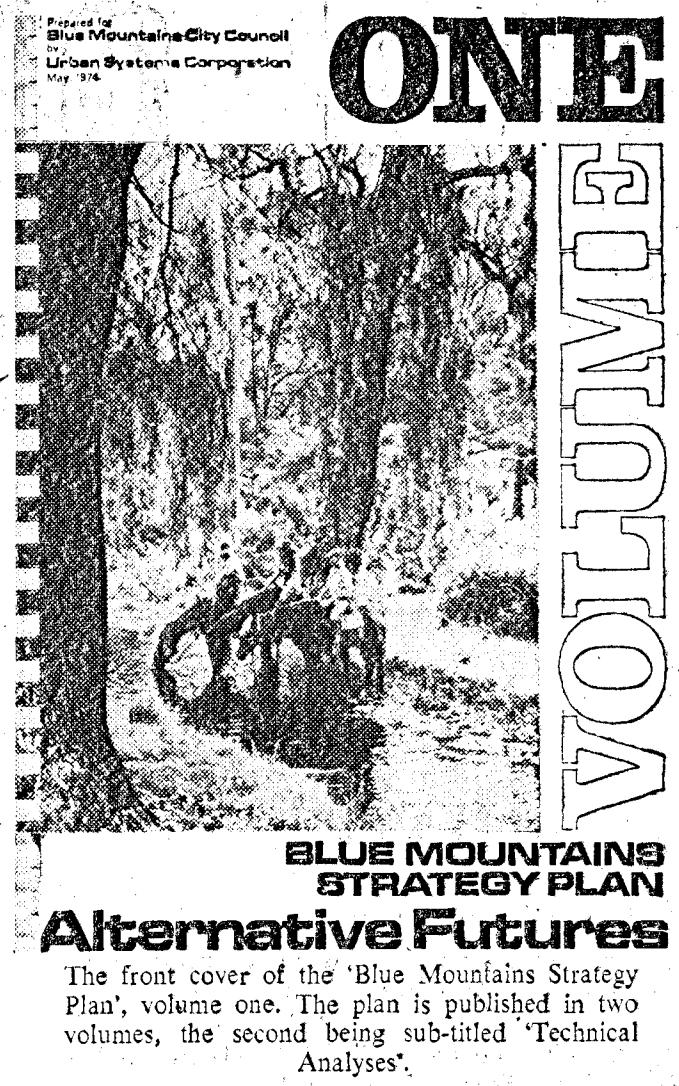
In the third alternative, urban boundaries would be expanded to include all subdivided land

and accommodate about 112,000 people. The report says it would create serious obstacles to bushfire prevention and suppression, ribbon development would increase, and the danger of environmental damage from development outside sewerage areas would increase. Conflict between conservation and urbanisation would lead to uncertainty of the role of the Blue Mountains as primarily a leisure region of attractive power to tourism.

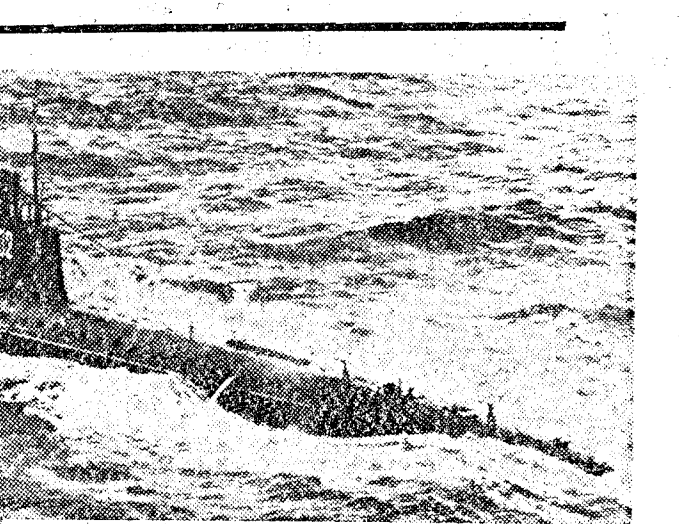
Alternative four would provide for a population of about 170,000. Serious competition would emerge between resident-visitor uses of natural recreation areas, provision of urban services would lag, there would be increasing pressures on open spaces between towns and a substantial decline in tourist potential. More provision would have to be made for transport, and economically exploitable water resources would barely cope with the population.

In alternative five, all physically suitable land not already in parks or other open spaces would be urbanised, and development densities would be increased, to provide for a population of 275,000. The report described the environmental implications of this alternative as "sobering."

Lack of urban infrastructure would present threats to all environmental areas. Views would be seriously impaired, pollution threats would be serious in some areas, ribbon development would be inevitable in the lower mountains, commuters from the upper



The front cover of the 'Blue Mountains Strategy Plan', volume one. The plan is published in two volumes, the second being sub-titled 'Technical Analyses'.



A Soviet submarine: To develop the means to combat such craft Australia needs the fruits of allied intelligence services.

INQUIRY INTO SECURITY SERVICES

Canadian experience points the way

By a Special Correspondent

HAVING dealt with the question of the direction from which it considered the threat to security integrity arose the Canadian commission then touched down on some of the target areas.

Canada itself was not unimportant as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (for Australia's case read, SEATO, ANZUS and ANZUK) and was necessarily privy to a great deal of information which it received on trust from such other countries as the US and the UK and much of which had become

important to the operation of the Canadian Government itself.

In the Australian case there are some good examples. To arrive at its assessment of the likely threats to Australia the Defence and Foreign Affairs Department analysis of the Joint Intelligence Organisation need a great deal of information about political backgrounds, economic potential, military capability, national aspirations and developing trends in a great number of countries, some of them not necessarily likely to be of direct menace to this country. Some of this information it gathers from its own field sources in our embassy staffs abroad, odd intelligence men on the ground

and from its own assessments of published materials from the countries concerned.

But a great deal (probably the bulk) of this information comes from the more extensive apparatus operated by the UK and the US in the countries of interest. To attempt to do the job on our own would involve the expenditure of enormous amounts of money on overseas intelligence services whose budgets would be exorbitant. But the job would have to be done.

What use would it be, for instance, for the RAAF to set out to buy a fighter aircraft, say from France, which both US and UK intelligence knew to be hopelessly outperformed by

equipment supplied from the USSR (for argument's sake) a communist-dominated Philippines or Indonesia.

Under current arrangements the facts would quickly be brought to our attention but as this information must necessarily pass through a great many hands the US and UK insist on the adequacy of our security vetting of people likely to come by the information. Traditionally they have accepted the procedures of ASIO but if these were inhibited the information would not be available.

To design its anti-submarine system known as Barra the Department of Supply had to have detailed information on the operational procedures of a large number of submarine fleets, both communist and non-communist, to ensure that they were not developing a system which technology had already surpassed.

The information was provided through friendly intelligence sources which insisted that it be kept secret. ASIO gave the guarantee. It was accepted.

The Canadian commission accepted the legitimacy of security screening of people whose tasks would necessarily involve the handling of classified information. The individual had no right to confidence, it found. Access to classified information was a privilege which the State had a right and duty to restrict.

And the Canadians supported the principle of full examination of the histories of people admitted to public employment provided only that safeguards existed to protect against injustices. It could see no objection to fingerprinting, for instance, or the close examination of criminal records.

All people who might have access to classified information must be persons in whose reliability the Government could repose full confidence, it said.

"It has in our view been clearly demonstrated that such confidence cannot be placed in persons whose loyalty to Canada and our system of Government is diluted by loyalty to any communist, fascist or other legal or illegal political organisation whose purposes are inimical to the processes of parliamentary democracy," it said.

Membership of a communist or fascist party or group having links with them; support by words or actions of a communist or fascist party or group having similar nature and purpose; people knowingly supporting communist or fascist front groups should be denied positions in which they could have access to classified material.

But the commission went even further and suggested proscription of persons who acted as agents or informers for foreign powers or who assisted any agents or informers. It extended it to a person who actively supported any organisation publicly or privately advocating force to alter the form of government.

But apart from attempting to define the types of persons likely to act against the security interests in Canada the commission laid down guidelines, along which it thought the security service should be established, and these should be of considerable interest to the Australian inquiry.

"We have considered arrangements that might be appropriate for the control of the Security Service", the commission reported. "Although the service must remain part of the executive arm of government, arrangements must be made to provide the head of the service with some independence, especially in circumstances in which he may feel that orders to provide information, for example, may be inappropriate."

"This independence must rest on some security of tenure, perhaps similar to that held by the Governor of the Bank of Canada, and upon clear and public terms of reference which include provision for the disclosure of information at his discretion."

The commission then outlined the tasks which it felt should be undertaken by the security service: To collect, collate and evaluate information or intelligence concerning espionage and subversion and to communicate such information in such man-

ner and to such persons as the Head of the Service considers to be in the public interest;

To be responsible for the direction, co-ordination and implementation of counter-espionage and counter-subversive operations in Canada;

To be responsible for security investigations concerning civilian personnel employed by the Government of Canada and other persons as required;

To be responsible for the inspection of security precautions in departments throughout the Government of Canada and elsewhere as required and for the provision of training and advice for departments of government and other agencies on matters concerned with security;

To be responsible for the operation and co-ordination of all technical security measures; To co-operate and liaise as may be necessary with domestic, Commonwealth and foreign police forces and security services.

And said the commission, the head of the service should have the right of direct access to the Prime Minister when the need arose although in his day-to-day operations he should be responsible to a Cabinet Minister other than the Prime Minister.

Several major pressures on the Australian inquiry might be unavoidable. Those who believe that the effectiveness of ASIO was destroyed by government intervention last year will no doubt try to have this publicly established irrespective of the damage such a disclosure could do. Other groups will try to prove that the security establishment has been too right-wing-oriented, seeking only to find communists under every bed to the exclusion of other dangers.

Former intelligence officers and some still serving will want to give advice on ways to improve the system. People who have felt victimised by the security establishment will no doubt ask to be heard. Politicians who have had much to say about ASIO and other intelligence units might feel required to offer such evidence as they might have to justify allegations they have made in Parliament.

The least satisfying aspect of the exercise will be the need for nearly all the interesting evidence to be heard in camera if national security itself is not to become a victim of an operation tended to improve it rather than destroy it.

The Prime Minister's major problem in framing terms for the inquiry which will satisfy both national and multi-political interests is an unenviable one. If the exercise misfires in any direction the Government could easily find itself out in the cold where the spies seem indisposed to remain alone.

VICE-REGAL

His Excellency The Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, arrived in Canberra from Hobart yesterday.

He received the Prime Minister at Government House, and presided at a meeting of the Federal Executive Council.

He received Dr G. R. Nikpay, the Mayor of Tehran, at Government House.