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Title:
Statement on Moratorium

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STATEMENT ON THE MORATORIUM BY DON DUNSTAN, PREMIER OF SOUTH AUST.

"IT IS DEPLORABLE AND FRIGHTENING THAT VIOLENCE AND DISORDER OCCURRED IN ADELAIDE DURING TODAY'S MORATORIUM DEMONSTRATION", THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN) SAID THIS EVENING FROM CANBERRA. MR. DUNSTAN SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A VARIETY OF REPORTS FROM ADELAIDE DURING THE AFTERNOON AND THAT THE ONE CLEAR FACT WHICH EMERGED WAS THAT THE CALM AND RESPONSIBILITY WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EVIDENT IN ANTI-VIETNAM PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN ADELAIDE NOW NO LONGER APPLIED.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAD WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THE PREVIOUS SITUATION OF CALM AND RATIONALITY CONTINUED. IT ENDEAVOURED TO ENSURE THIS. IT BELIEVED PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PEACEABLY DEMONSTRATE THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS WITHOUT BEING SUBJECTED TO EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AGGRESSIVE PRESSURES". "WHAT APPARENTLY HAPPENED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA THIS AFTERNOON WAS THAT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND BEHAVIOUR WAS REPLACED BY IRRESPONSIBILITY AND AGGRESSION". "ON MY RETURN TO ADELAIDE I WILL CALL AN URGENT CABINET MEETING TO CONSIDER WHAT MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE TO ENSURE THAT DEMOCRATIC LAW AND ORDER PROCEDURES (ONES NOT SUBJECT TO EMOTIONALISM) ARE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED IN OUR COMMUNITY".

"ALTHOUGH THE PRECISE SITUATION IN ADELAIDE AT THIS STAGE IS UNCLEAR IT DOES SEEM THAT A TOP LEVEL INVESTIGATION IS NOW NEEDED TO ASCERTAIN WHAT ELEMENTS ON TODAY'S MORATORIUM ACTIVITIES AGGRAVATED AND CREATED SUCH A DEPLORABLE AND AGGRESSIVE SITUATION".

"AT THE MOMENT IT SEEMS THAT PRECIPITOUS BEHAVIOUR HAS OCCURRED ON ALL SIDES."

"DURING THE WEEKEND I WILL CONSULT WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND WITH LABOR LEADERS THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AS TO THE PROPER COURSE TO BE TAKEN IN A SITUATION WHICH THREATENS THE PEACE OF THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA".

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