

NOTES FROM PORT MORESBY MEETINGS ON LANDOWNER PROBLEMS

Saturday, 26th November, 1988 : 9.00 a.m.

Same attendance as before, ie.

PRESENT :- P. LOWA, Minister for Minerals & Energy,  
FR. J. MOMIS, Minister for Provincial Affairs  
W. SEARSON, Secretary, Dept. Minerals & Energy  
J. KABUI, Premier, North Solomons Province  
P. TSIAMILILI, Administrative Secretary, NSPG  
T. ORMUNDSEN, Officer, Dept. Minerals & Energy  
R. J. CORNELIUS, Bougainville Copper Ltd.

B.C.L.

Advised of situation relayed to me by K.R. Perry, ie. pre-meditated, highly organised terrorism by Landowner party under direction of Francis Ona.

Four (4) arrests had been made and police were out for Francis Ona's arrest but he had gone bush.

Advised of Francis Ona's radio call for support.

Also of note to Police advising that Landowner group had explosives and would use them.

Advised Luke Pangu seeking riot squad but B.C.L. consider this inadequate, ie. local Police/B.C.L. security very tired as have been involved since last Sunday.

Was necessary to have at least two riot groups and special flight arrangements to get them to Bougainville today.

MINISTER, M & E

General agreement with above.

Action list prepared.

1. Protect - Airport  
- Power Station  
- Water Pumps  
- Communications

in addition to those things being protected by

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B.C.L. and local Police.

2. Call meeting of all Landowners - left with Rabui/Tsiamilili.  
Later felt better to broadcast call for calm over radio by Premier.
3. Charter special F28 to get Police over this afternoon.  
2 'squads - 30 Port Moresby (actual 20)  
- 30 Rabaul (actual 25)
4. Arrest ring leaders and interrogate to get listing of others involved.
5. Contact Prime Minister in Wewak (not achieved by 2.00p.m.).
6. Premier to make announcement over radio as soon as possible. (Not done by 9.00 p.m.).

MINISTER M & E

Suggested we could make announcement saying that Government and B.C.L. would commence B.C.L. Agreement review prior to the end of this year to aid in regaining calm and control over the situation.

B.C.L.

Rejected this on the basis that this would  
a) be seen as a victory by those who committed the acts of terrorism, ie. condoning their actions; and  
b) raise expectations of some perceived benefit they may have in mind that is not achievable hence resulting in repetition of lawlessness.

MINISTER, M & E

Yes agree, we shouldn't do that.

MINISTER, M & E

MINISTER, PROV. AFFAIRS

Need to talk to Landowners.

B.C.L.

Believe it is important to apply the law first, ie. - charge and deal with those involved:  
- recover stolen explosives.  
Then, when things have quietened down, gradually resume normal discussions with Landowner representatives.

It is important they are not given indication that

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increases their expectations and therefore vindicates their actions.

MINISTER, PROV. AFFAIRS

Probably not possible to deal with Francis Ona any more as representative of Landowners.

B.C.L.

We would certainly refuse to accept him as being suitable to deal with.

B.C.L.

I believe it is important to re-look at the Landowner executive and make sure they are the true representatives of the Landowners actually on our leases.

We have asked for this, ie. list of land they own and villages they represent. That has never occurred and gradually we have acknowledged them.

Have stressed this point with Peter Tsiamilili, ie. there seems to be many Landowners who do not align with this group, ie. Michael Pariu.

MINISTER, M & E

Hear/Acknowledge ? your concerns

MINISTER, PROV. AFFAIRS

PREMIER

P. TSIAMILILI

No reaction.

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