

NOTES ON MEETING WITH COL NUIA - 20/12/89

Present : Graham Edney  
R J Cornelius  
Doug Fishburn  
Col Nuia

- . R J Cornelius explained the outcome of the meeting on Saturday between D S Carruthers, R J Cornelius and Premier where Premier indicated this peace initiative was finished. At the meeting on the previous Wednesday the militants had indicated they still want secession and they want all the troops and police withdrawn.
- . Bengo and Tohian have confirmed to R J Cornelius that there will be no further troop withdrawals.
- . R J Cornelius explained that Ted Diro had asked for the mine to reopen and that he (Bob) had indicated that such a move was not feasible.
- . Col Nuia indicated that it was impossible for the mine to reopen and Ted Diro did not know what he was talking about.
- . Even with everyone based at Panguna it was not practical for reopening to be even considered.
- . Problem will ultimately be solved by the people putting pressure on the militants as they suffer more and more with mine closure.
- . R J Cornelius indicated it was important to continue to put pressure on militants.
- . Col Nuia indicated that the Post Courier front page indicates the peace initiative has failed, secession is not on and that there were changes in the landowner leadership mooted.
- . With the peace initiative there was some chance of an early resolution but now only time will fix the problem.
- . Col Nuia indicated there were two factions within the militants, one a hard line, and over the past two weeks the Defence Forces had been trying to put the heat on the militants and convince the community to turn against the militants.
- . If the growing sentiment against the militant can be fanned then success will ultimately result.
- . R J Cornelius indicated a public relations campaign was now necessary to put the Government position and make clear to the public what had happened.

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Col Nua indicated the rumours were now circulating to the extent that the planned attack by militants on 20 December had now been deferred till the new year.

James Singko and Oscar Ampoi represented Francis Ona at the Wednesday meeting with Fr Liebert.

Col Nua believes the events over the last several weeks in Buin/Siwai are related to militant activity. Basically those killed were believed to be Government informers.

R J Cornelius explained the activities at Mananau and the turbine station where they have painted "BRA demolition squad" on the wall.

R J Cornelius indicated the intent was to close Mananau in a controlled way and appealed for Defence Force presence at Mananau with a minimum of overnight coverage. Col Nua indicated that he was very short staffed at the moment but now with the abandonment of the peace initiative some reinforcements may be coming.

R J Cornelius again asked for night cover only to stop the militants getting access to the pigs.

Col Nua indicated although he has got three understrength companies distributed out in the bush trying to stop militants coming out of the bush, without this action more attacks would have occurred.

Col Nua indicated he hoped that some reinforcements may start to arrive today.

Col Nua indicated the BRA had attacked Buin and the public servants were fortunate to have been withdrawn.

Col Nua indicated there were about 30 hard core militants in Buin area and about 300 hard core in Kongara - Panguna area.

Church (Bishop and Woester) have indicated they will now condemn the militants but this is yet to happen.

R J Cornelius indicated Raphael Bele had told him about a major campaign by the Premier and Provincial Government to condemn the militants.

Community leaders in Siwai have taken the lead in trying to bring the militants under control. The leaders were concerned that the military would react adversely to the shootings down at Boku and were keen to react before the military did.

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R J Cornelius expressed concern about the defence of the mine magazine. Graham Edney indicated he was hoping to have the magazine contents off the Island sold to Ok Tedi or destroyed before the year end. Extra protection at the magazine and for transport down the hill would be needed till the contents can be moved or exploded. Col Nulia agreed to boost the protection.

The evacuation programme suggested by the Premier last Saturday was briefly discussed.

Some of the undertakings by the Bishop and Fr Liebert and Fr Woester were also discussed.

R J Cornelius indicated he understood the Colonel had his own priorities on the allocation of his resources but if protection at Mananau and the magazine could be increased then we would be appreciative.

AT A BRIEF MEETING OUTSIDE COL NULIA'S OFFICE

Bill Daniels indicated the notebook of Aloysius Minitong captured in Boku had notes going back to 1987 and specified targets (including the Executive lodge in Arawa). The notebook is being investigated by Col Ben Maris.

Get a listing of employees leaving BCL vis-a-vis important incidents at the mine.

Bill indicated there were some explosives, ball bearings etc. in the kit bag of Vincent Onari when his belongings were examined following his death.

D FISHBURN  
20/12/89

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