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MESSAGE CENTER



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SECT 60 OF 04608

ACTION

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1527

BT

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EO 11652: XGDS-2

TASS: PFOR, PINK, TSPA, UN

SUBJ: RETURN OF SPACE OBJECTS TO EARTH

REF: STATE A-6343

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TWO SPACE OBJECTS FOUND IN AUSTRALIA DURING PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO USG BY AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. ADDO WOULD EITHER A) LOAN OR B) GIVE THESE OBJECTS TO USG WITH ONLY PRO-VISO THAT ADDO BE INFORMED OF RESULTS OF THEIR ANALYSIS. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN OFFER. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY RECENTLY INFORMED BY AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (ADOD) THAT TWO OBJECTS (DESCRIBED BELOW) HAVE BEEN RECOVERED IN AUSTRALIA DURING PAST TWO YEARS. BOTH OBJECTS ARE IN CANBERRA AND HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO USG EITHER FOR A) LOAN OR B) AS GIFT, PROVIDED ADDO IS INFORMED OF RESULTS OF ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT ON THESE

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## OBJECTS.

## 3. INFORMATION ON THE TWO OBJECTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) NORMANTON SPHERE - LATE IN 1971 A SPHERE WAS FOUND ON RUTLAND PLAIN'S STATION NORTH OF NORMANTON, QUEENSLAND. THE APPROXIMATE COORDINATES OF THE IMPACT POSITION ARE 15 DEGREES 56' S - 141 DEGREES 49' E. DESCRIPTION: METAL SPHERE W/23 1/2" OUTSIDE DIAMETER. WALL THICKNESS 5MM. WEIGHT 51 LBS. MADE IN TWO HALVES JOINED TOGETHER WITH WELD. TWO METAL PROTRUSIONS OPPOSITE SIDES. SERIES OF NUMBERS OF WHICH 906807 DECIPHERABLE. (THE NUMBER 7 IS IDENTIFIABLE AS AMERICAN AND NOT EUROPEAN). OBJECT NOW PACKED IN WOODEN SHIPPING CRATE, SIZE APPROXIMATELY 15 CU. FT., WEIGHT 146 LBS.

B) MOURDUBRA DEBRIS - LATE IN JANUARY 1973 A SPACE VEHICLE COMPONENT WAS DISCOVERED ON THE SHORE OF LAKE MOORE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (APPROXIMATELY 30DEGREES S - 118DEGREES 48' E). THE TIME OF RE-ENTRY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED BUT THE MANAGER OF THE MOURDUBRA STATION ON WHICH THE DEBRIS WAS FOUND STATED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN THERE EIGHT MONTHS EARLIER. HE REPORTED THAT A BRIGHT RED OR ORANGE FLARE HAD BEEN SIGHTED IN JULY 1972 AT ABOUT 60DEGREES ELEVATION AND AT ABOUT THE ABOVE COORDINATES. DESCRIPTION: METAL SPHERE W/OUTSIDE DIAMETER 19 2/2". MADE IN TWO HALVES, JOINED WITH OUTSIDE STRONG RING TO 21 2/2" DIAMETER. WEIGHT ABOUT 20 LBS. INSIDE OUTER SHELL IS ANOTHER SPHERICAL CONTAINER 17 2/2" DIAMETER. INSULATING PADS OF FIBRE BLANKETS BETWEEN TWO SPHERES. INNER SHELL HAS TWO PIPE OUTLETS AND ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BOX. INSIDE INNER SHELL IS PERFORATED SPHERICAL COPPER ASSEMBLY CONTAINING COAXIAL CAPACITOR FLUID GAUGING DEVICE AND A HEATER ASSEMBLY. OBJECT NOW PACKED IN WOODEN SHIPPING CRATE, SIZE 8 CU. FT., WEIGHT 100 LBS.

## 4. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN GUIDANCE PORTION OF REF AIR ARE (KEYED TO ITEMS 1 THROUGH 7):

A) NO PRECISE TIMING OF IMPACT FOR EITHER OBJECT IS KNOWN. DATES OF DISCOVERIES IN AUSTRALIA ARE AS GIVEN ABOVE.

B) EMBASSY IS NOT INFORMED WHETHER OBJECTS CAUSED ANY DAMAGE ON IMPACTING. SINCE THEY WERE BOTH DISCOVERED IN REMOTE AREAS, OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT NO DAMAGE EITHER TO

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PERSON OR PROPERTY OCCURRED AT IMPACT.  
C) AND D) DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN ABOVE.  
E) NO PHOTOGRAPHS OF OBJECTS ARE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER,  
EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN OR MAKE PHOTOS OF THEM IF REQUESTED.  
F) BOTH OBJECTS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY THE NASA REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRALIA AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE USSR EMBASSY HERE. NASA REP SAYS HE CONVINCED THEY ARE U.S. ORIGIN BUT IS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY VEHICLE OF WHICH THEY FORMED PART.  
G) THERE WAS NO LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE RELATING TO DISCOVERY OF THESE TWO ITEMS AS FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE.

5. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO ADOO.

GREEN

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

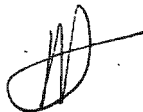
August 29, 1973

NOTE FOR MAJOR COYLE

Bud,

Would you please follow the Australian  
space debris subject? General Kulpa is  
interested.

After our conversation with Colonel  
Anderson, he departed for AFIN and I called  
[redacted] had nothing further to  
offer and Anderson did not get to see the  
Exec in AFIN. He was to return later to  
ask that FTD take the lead in returning and  
analyzing the debris, but I have had no feed  
back.



Fritz

(b)(3)

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