

Title: Singapore: Reactions to Australian Election
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 04/07/2016 03:17:38 PM ZE8
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : East Asia Summit
From: Singapore
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Requires Action

Summary

The result of Australia's July 2 election has featured prominently in Singapore media.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

"Divisive Hanson" to politics has been prominent.

Coverage on the return of the



australiafacing.p...



australiain.pdf



australiasright.pdf



divisivehanson....



turnbullconfide...

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

SYDNEY (AFP) - Divisive Australian politician Pauline Hanson, who once claimed Asians were in danger of swamping the country, was Sunday on the cusp of being re-elected to parliament after a near 20-year absence.

She is one of a host of minor party candidates or independents on track to win upper house Senate seats, as voters disillusioned with the ruling conservatives and Labor opposition opted for change.

The final counts are not yet settled but Hanson, who rose to prominence in the 1990s as head of the right-wing, anti-immigration One Nation party she co-founded, is forecast to again be headed to Canberra.

"I have got no problems with anyone - if they have got a problem with me, that's their issue, not mine," she said, adding that the major parties needed to start listening to grassroots Australians.

"I'm the person that's going to come in, like the cleaner, if they don't clean your house properly you get rid of them and you have a clean sweep of the broom."

But Hanson, who wants a halt to Muslim immigration and have a national inquiry into whether Islam is a religion or a political ideology, has already created waves.

Greens leader Richard Di Natale said it was "certain" Hanson had made a successful return to the parliament and his party would do all it could to keep her in check.

"The Greens will stand against her racist and bigoted agenda," he said.

"There is no place for bigotry, for the sort of hatred that she is spreading through her views, that have no place in a modern 21st century Australia.

"We will be the opposition to her in the Senate, taking it right up to her and letting her know that we would rather be a country that doesn't prey on people's fears and anxieties but appeals to their better nature."

Hanson, who famously ditched her fish and chip shop to represent Queensland in the national parliament, lost her seat in 1998 and quit as One Nation's leader in 2002.

She announced her return to lead One Nation after a 12-year hiatus in 2014, saying she felt there was no choice given voter disillusionment with other parties.

SPH Digital News / Copyright © 2017 Singapore Press Holdings Ltd. Co. Regn. No. 198402868E.
All rights reserved | Terms & Conditions | Data Protection Policy | Advertise with us

THE STRAITS TIMES



Girl,
14,
dies
after
... 3 -



Teenage
'Bonnie
and
Clyde'
... 4 -



Where
to buy

realestate.com.au

Recommended by

Anti-immigration Pauline Hanson on cusp of Australia election return



Pauline Hanson fills out her senate ballot paper as she votes at Jamboree Heights State School in Brisbane, Australia. PHOTO: EPA

PUBLISHED JUL 3, 2016, 1:40 PM SGT

Title: New Zealand: domestic reaction to Australian federal election
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 05/07/2016 05:20:27 PM ZE12
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Auckland
From: Wellington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: The cable has the following attachment/s -
NZ - Australian election - Reaction - 040716 050716.pdf
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

The Australian federal election has been reported extensively in New Zealand. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Relevant articles are attached.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

3. Prime Minister Key has also been questioned by local media about One Nation's policy on the rights of New Zealanders in Australia. When pressed, Key said that "any Australian politician that wants to advocate for better rights for New Zealanders in Australia is to be welcomed, in regard to that policy". Key said "I think realistically what has been happening in Australia is we've had some movement under Malcolm Turnbull, but the big issue here is fiscal cost to Australia, and given they're running a substantial deficit, I don't think you're going to see a dramatic change." He said that while there could be more progress over time, "I don't think it's just an advocacy issue, it's ultimately does the Australian Treasury want to bear those costs and that's been the stumbling block so far."

NEW ZEALAND

MEDIA COVERAGE

REACTION TO AUSTRALIAN ELECTION

2- 5 July 2016

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Editorial: Dominion Post: A uniquely Australian shambles	4
Opinion: Millions of Australians join global chorus saying 'screw you' to political establishment	6
Radio NZ: PM offers advice to Australian opposite number	10
TV3: One immigrant group Pauline Hanson supports: Kiwis	12
Fairfax NZ: John Key has advice for Malcolm Turnbull on how to construct a minority government	14

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

NZ Herald: Prime Minister John Key on Australian election: 'Winning ugly is better than losing tidy'	34
--	----

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Transcript: TVNZ: Q+A: Prime Minister John Key interviewed by Corin Dann.....	44
---	----

Editorial: Dominion Post: A uniquely Australian shambles

Dominion Post (Wellington, Fairfax NZ)

5 July 2016

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's bid for a fresh mandate has comprehensively failed. Even if his government scrapes in over the wire after vote-counting is eventually finished, Turnbull's campaign has backfired.

A hung Parliament now seems likely, with Turnbull's Liberals struggling to get the 76 votes needed in the House of Representatives. And in the Senate, the motley crew of independents needing to be wooed has seemingly grown larger, including the return of the undead in the ghastly shape of xenophobe Pauline Hanson.

What a mess. Turnbull called for decisive backing from the voters. They yawned; many turned to a supposedly terminal Labor Party; others headed to tiny niche parties. The crisis of the two main parties is now clear to everyone.

Turnbull's botch-up, however, was largely his own work. He ran a deeply unconvincing campaign which was curiously lacking in commitment. It was Turnbull who wanted the longest electoral campaign in living memory, gambling that this would give him enough time to make his case. What he delivered was eight weeks of tedium.

Turnbull used to be a hero of the progressive side of the Liberals, a convinced republican, a supporter of gay marriage, and an enlightened man who took climate change seriously. On all these points he was the opposite of the disastrous Tony Abbott, a reactionary ideologue who had caused his own downfall.

But Turnbull stayed in thrall to the man he replaced. Turnbull is a conviction politician who seemed unable to make his case. Partly no doubt this reflects the deep ideological splits in his party. He knew the reactionary right of the party would never accept his views and would always oppose a change in party policy.

Turnbull also knew that parties that change leaders between elections compound the suspicion of the voters if they also make deep policy changes. The result was that this most articulate of politicians looked awkward and unconvincing.

His bad-tempered post-election speech, delivered after midnight, seemed to reflect all these frustrations and contradictions. He was widely condemned for his gracelessness.

Turnbull's problems reflect a deeper crisis within the two-party system. Both main parties have now splintered after a dominant leader turned out to be a disaster. Kevin Rudd was an accomplished former diplomat whose personal arrogance and high-handedness quickly repelled his colleagues. He was dumped and the Labor Party never recovered from the trauma.

The same thing happened with Abbott, the "mad monk" whose personal obsessions trumped his political commonsense.

Some claim that Australia has succumbed to a worldwide political revolt against the political class as illustrated in Trumpism and Brexit. This is probably stretching things too far, although the re-emergence of Pauline Hanson has certain similarities with the racist demagoguery of Trump. But Australia's political problems are a uniquely Aussie shambles.

Opinion: Millions of Australians join global chorus saying 'screw you' to political establishment

By Jennifer Curtin

The Spinoff

4 July 2016

Link: <http://thespinoff.co.nz/politics-media/04-07-2016/millions-of-australians-join-global-chorus-saying-screw-you-to-political-establishment/>

Amid Australia's election deadlock, independent candidates have become a lightning rod for discontented voters, and there are lessons for NZ political parties, writes Jennifer Curtin.

It might not be as internationally extraordinary as Brexit or Trump winning the Republican nomination, but the result of the Australian election has revealed a profound disaffection with both major parties across the Tasman. It seems that close to one third of Australians cast their vote for someone other than Liberal-National and Labor candidates. The final result hangs in the balance, with a sense that the second hung parliament in six years is a very real possibility. And, although the major parties and the Greens had expected changes in Senate voting rules to eliminate the presence of micro parties, it looks like 10 "teams" of independents, including the phoenix-like Pauline Hanson, will fill the cross benches in the upper house.

This trend in voting "independent" is not new in Australian politics. Between 1990 and 2013, 66 independents served in the lower houses of Australian parliaments, and most notable were the two, along with Greens MP, who kept the Gillard government alive from 2010-2013. A disproportionate number of these independents have won rural and regional seats held by the Liberals or Nationals that were considered to be "safe". This happened again on Saturday. Cathy McGowan, an independent MP in the Victorian seat of Indi, won the safe Liberal seat in 2013, and increased her margin this election.

In New South Wales, two former independents gave sitting National MPs, including the deputy prime minister Barnaby Joyce, a serious run for their money. In Queensland, maverick Bob Katter was returned, as was former whistleblower Andrew Wilkie in Tasmania. Meanwhile in South Australia, centrist independent senator Nick Xenophon formed a team of candidates (NXT) to run in House and Senate races. At least one former Liberal seat, Mayo, has been won by NXT's Rebekha Sharkie. Another, the vast seat of Grey, encompassing Whyalla and Port Augusta, and which stretches all the way to the Western Australian border, may yet be won by a second NXT candidate. From all of this we find four independents and one Green become the deal makers and breakers in the chaos that seems to be Australian politics.

Of course the disillusionment with the major parties goes beyond country Australia, and beyond the House of Representatives. But a focus on why those in the "bush" have turned away from the parties to whom they were once wedded helps us to understand how the unthinkable in Australian politics has happened again.

The first reason is policy-related. Over the past three decades the major Australian parties – Labor, Liberal and National – slowly but surely abandoned traditional rural and regional economic development policies and services, instead requiring these communities to take more responsibility for their own sustainability. Combined with a major restructuring of the rural economy, unreliable commodity prices and cuts to public services, some parts of rural and regional Australia have been denied the benefits of an otherwise healthy national economy, prior to the end of the mining boom. These changes created the perception of a social, cultural and economic divide between city and country. Numerous reports were published and revealed regional gaps in income levels, access to digital technology and resourced educational facilities. In 1999 the federal leader of the National Party, John Anderson, acknowledged that rural and regional voters may feel their political parties had forgotten them: “the sense of alienation, of no longer being recognised and respected for the contribution to the nation being made, is deep and palpable in much of rural and regional Australia.”

The second point of note is that while vote share for the major parties has decreased in Australia in recent years, the control major parties exert over their parliamentarians and over the processes of candidate selection has rarely been greater. By adopting unpalatable policies, the Liberal, National and Labor parties rendered some of their local MPs and candidates – who are required to advocate the party line – electorally vulnerable to candidates free from toeing a party line. Independent and small-party locally grown candidates became more visible, more easily able to voice electorate concerns, and the electorates were of a size that allowed those without the support of a party machine to campaign and win.

Finally, in national elections at least, major parties are required to focus their campaign on the big picture, and on marginal electorates, in order to win a majority to govern. Increasingly this focus requires a presidential-style campaign, and assumes the popularity of the party leader is the most significant factor in play. This has created a space in which independent candidates can appeal to local issues and then, once in parliament, to take up the role of electorate champion.

Unsurprisingly, the major parties in Australia deride independent candidates for being ineffective and implore voters not to “waste” their vote. The 2016 campaign was no different, with Prime Minister Turnbull invoking Brexit fall-out in his plea to voters to avoid independents. However, the behaviour of governments who want to win these seats back from independents necessarily requires a degree of largesse.

The result of this attention is often paradoxical. For example, after almost losing the 1998 election because of the surge of support for Pauline Hanson's One Nation, the Howard government invested heavily in rural electorates and went on to win the 2001 election with a sizeable majority. But two new independents were also elected that year, bringing the total to three. Nor has the success of independents proved a passing phase. In 2013, despite the

populist rhetoric that the Gillard government had become beholden to independents, three were elected to the federal House of Representatives, when Abbott won in a landslide. Alongside this several other independents have been re-elected to state parliaments over the past 18 months and it is not unusual to see supporters of independents calling on voters to make their safe seat "marginal".

In this way, independent candidates in Australia have become a lightning rod for discontented voters from both sides of the political spectrum, most of whom are seldom likely to switch sides completely. And of course this result is emphasised by compulsory voting and the lower house electoral system where parties trade preferences in order to win the required 50 per cent plus one, features that are absent from the New Zealand political system.

So what do such trends suggest for New Zealand politics and for the National government in particular? Political commentators often ruminate over the persistent threat the Greens pose to Labour's place as a major party, while a similar threat to National seems unthinkable. In part, we are lulled into such thinking by the proportional part of our electoral system. It is the party vote that determines who wins, so a focus on the party leader and big-picture issues has become even more important to the campaign process. The smaller flank parties tend to concentrate on reaching the five percent threshold through nationwide rather than local campaigns because of the difficulties associated with winning a geographically concentrated proportion of the vote (ACT is an obvious exception).

However, the same cannot be said of the Northland byelection. Winston Peters does not represent a niche flank party but sits in the centre of the political spectrum; he presents himself as an "independently" minded candidate and as such, was able to appeal to discontented voters from both the left and the right when he won the seat last year. Peters has demonstrated that the New Zealand system can still reward a popular local candidate who attracts sufficient geographical support.

There is a tendency for pundits to write off byelections as a "one-off" punishment – it is the case that governments often have experienced a swing against them in the comparatively small number of byelections held in New Zealand. Smaller parties have sometimes benefitted as a result; for example when Social Credit won Rangitikei in 1978. Bruce Beetham then went on to hold the seat in the 1978 and 1981 general elections, suggesting incumbency for non-major party candidates is possible beyond byelections. It may be that Northland returns to the National fold in 2017. It may be that the housing crisis in Auckland will overshadow regional resentment. But financial attention in the form of roads and bridges has been delivered nevertheless. It may not be enough. Jobs, schools, public services and decent wages are also important to rural and regional communities that do not always feel the benefits of the alleged "rock star" economy, particularly now that dairy prices have dropped. However, governments of the right tend to shy away from increasing state expenditure and exposing themselves to claims of "nanny" statism.

Much of this is theoretical. John Key's personal standing remains high, and National's candidate selection processes are sufficiently decentralised to enable them to choose "local notables" rather than political careerists. But as the Australian experience shows, attending to one regional electorate once is seldom sufficient, and career politicians are increasingly perceived as estranged from the communities they purport to represent. Listening tours, community cabinets, as well as broader regional development and redistributive policies may also be needed in order to prevent traditional country voters in New Zealand going rogue. If nothing else, the Australian experience in 2016 reminds us that the voices of the "masses" still matter to major parties.

Jennifer Curtin is a University of Auckland academic and co-author with Brian Costar of Rebels with a Cause: Independents in Australian Politics (UNSW Press).

Radio NZ: PM offers advice to Australian opposite number

Radio New Zealand

4 July 2016

Published at 8:32pm NZT

Prime Minister John Key has offered the leader of Australia's Liberal Party advice on forming a minority government.

The final result from Australia's general election on Saturday will not be known until later in the week, after both the ruling coalition and the Labor Party fell short of the number of seats needed to govern outright.

Australia's Liberal Party leader Malcolm Turnbull is confident he will be able to secure enough seats for a majority in Parliament by the end of the week.

Mr Key said he talked to Mr Turnbull yesterday and offered support on structuring confidence and supply agreements with other parties which he said is common-practice in New Zealand under MMP.

"So my basic message was we've very effectively worked minority governments, the previous government (Labour-led) was a nine year government under a minority government, so it's quite possible and in the end you've just got to get on and do it," Mr Key said.

Mr Key was asked if Mr Turnbull felt there had been a backlash against the major parties by voters leading to more support for independents - such as Pauline Hanson of the far-right anti-immigration One Nation party who will return to Parliament.

"Not really," Mr Key responded.

"As I've been saying for some time now every country has a party that wants to advocate for those kinds of issues, you've had it in the UK with Nigel Farage for a long period of time, you've got it in Australia with Pauline Hanson, you've certainly got it in France and you've got it in New Zealand with Winston Peters."

However, Mr Key did support one of the controversial politician's policies.

Ms Hanson wants to make it much easier for New Zealanders living in Australia to become citizens and to gain access to government services.

She said it was "unreasonable and discriminatory" that many New Zealanders who work, pay taxes and raise families in Australia could not access social services when times were tough - leaving New Zealanders stuck "between a rock and a hard place".

Mr Key said that policy has got merit.

"Any Australian politician that wants to advocate for better rights for New Zealanders in Australia is to be welcomed," Mr Key said.

TV3: One immigrant group Pauline Hanson supports: Kiwis

Newshub (TV3) / NZ Newswire

4 July 2016

Published at 6:26pm NZT

Controversial Australian politician Pauline Hanson might like Kiwi immigrants, but Prime Minister John Key doubts there'll be much change in store for New Zealanders living across the ditch.

Ms Hanson has secured a seat in the Australian senate and she's confident her One Nation Party will win at least three, possibly five, more, and there's some speculation Ms Hanson's party could hold the balance of power once the final results of the Australian election are known in the coming days.

One Nation campaigned on a platform that included an inquiry into Islam, putting surveillance cameras in mosques, limiting Muslim immigration, banning new mosques, and abolishing multiculturalism.

But among the party's policies is a plan to change Australia's citizenship and social security laws so New Zealanders are eligible to become citizens and can access welfare services like benefits and disability support.

Asked if that offered a glimmer of hope to Kiwis across the Tasman, Mr Key didn't appear to think so.

"Any Australian politician that wants to advocate for better rights for New Zealanders in Australia is to be welcomed, in regard to that policy," he told reporters on Monday.

"I think realistically what has been happening in Australia is we've had some movement under Malcolm Turnbull, but the big issue here is fiscal cost to Australia, and given they're running a substantial deficit, I don't think you're going to see a dramatic change."

In February, Mr Key and Mr Turnbull cut a deal which means up to 100,000 Kiwis who have been living in Australia for at least five years could be able to claim citizenship.

But that initiative only applies to certain New Zealanders who moved to Australia after February 2001 and before the announcement was made this year.

Mr Key is hopeful there could be a bit more movement over time.

"But I don't think it's just an advocacy issue, it's ultimately does the Australian Treasury want to bear those costs and that's been the stumbling block so far."

Most New Zealanders move to Australia under a special category visa which has excluded them from applying for citizenship since law changes in 2001.

That means they're unable to access a range of welfare services and it's also one of the reasons why so many Kiwis have been caught out by tough immigration rules which mean any non-citizen who's served a prison sentence of 12 months or more can have their visa cancelled and be deported.

Fairfax NZ: John Key has advice for Malcolm Turnbull on how to construct a minority government

By Jo Moir

Stuff (Fairfax NZ)

4 July 2016

Last updated 6:25pm NZT

How could Malcolm Turnbull make a minority Government work? He could phone a friend - in this case, John Key.

The Prime Minister spoke to his Australian counter-part, Turnbull, "a couple of times" on Sunday after voting closed at 2am and the country fell into political limbo, raising the chances of another hung parliament.

Turnbull has the backing of Key, who calls him his friend, and might just pick up the phone and dial New Zealand if he's in a position to scramble together a minority Government after the final 1.5 million votes are counted on Tuesday.

"We've become very used to how you might construct confidence and supply agreements. The basic message was, we've very effectively worked in minority governments," Key said.

"It's probably more encouragement but I've offered to give him advice if he wants it."

Other than for a "few seconds" on election night in 2014, New Zealand's never had a majority Government under MMP.

Far-right One Nation leader Pauline Hanson, who has been in the political wilderness for nearly two decades, could end up being one of those people Turnbull has to turn to to form a Government.

Hanson, widely known for her controversial views on immigration and Islam, believes her party could win up to six senate spots when the final votes are in.

Key said every country has a party advocating on those sorts of issues.

"You've got it in the UK obviously with Nigel Farage, you've got it in Australia with Pauline Hanson, you've certainly got it in France and you've got it in New Zealand with Winston Peters."

When asked if he would consider partnering with Peters and NZ First in 2017 if needs be, Key said he "effectively neutralised that debate in 2014 so we could be clear with our voters".

"I can't imagine us changing that position for 2017.

"Our preferred position is to talk to our existing partners first if they were returning to Parliament and we were in a position to form a Government. We'd

only sit down if Winston Peters is in Parliament and wants to have a discussion, then we'll do that as well," Key said.

NZ Herald: Prime Minister John Key on Australian election: 'Winning ugly is better than losing tidy'

By Audrey Young

New Zealand Herald

3 July 2016

Published at 10:17am NZT

Australia's election results are hanging on a knife-edge today, as Prime Minister John Key likens the embattled Coalition's prospects of a win to a Rugby World Cup victory.

"Winning ugly is better than losing tidy," he said on TVNZ's Q and A.

With about 77 per cent of the vote counted, the Liberal-National Coalition and Labor had each won 67 seats, the Greens one and independents four. Pundits are split over whether incumbent Malcolm Turnbull or Labor leader Bill Shorten will take the reins.

Incredibly, the result will not be known until tomorrow, but even if the coalition is returned, it may require the support of unpredictable independents.

Speaking to reporters at the National Party conference in Christchurch yesterday, Mr Key said: "Whatever happens, obviously our hope is that the new Australian Government will be in a position to drive their economy and to deliver the results that Australians will want because Australia is our biggest market for goods and services on a combined basis."

National had won every election on a minority basis.

Mr Key said he counted Liberal leader and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull as a friend and a good Prime Minister, and hoped he would win.

One of the curve balls thrown up by the election is the potential return to the senate of Pauline Hanson, from the One Nation party.

"I don't think it's new in terms of those sort of fringe parties that argue very much against migration and integration and the like. Winston Peters has been around for decades in New Zealand arguing those, and at various times ... enjoyed more or less support."

Labour Party leader Andrew Little heaped praise on his centre-left counterpart in Australia.

"I think Bill Shorten and Labor have done an excellent campaign, and it's reflected in the results they've got." Greens co-leader James Shaw was tipping a Coalition win.

**Transcript: TVNZ: Q+A: Prime Minister John Key interviewed
by Corin Dann**

Television New Zealand

3 July 2016

Released by TVNZ at 2:41pm NZT

Summary (provided by TVNZ):

Prime Minister John Key admits homelessness has risen on his watch.

"Do you accept homelessness has risen on your watch?" ONE News Political Editor Corin Dann asked on TV One's Q+A programme. Mr Key agreed, but also defended his government.

"Yes, there are more people but equally we are also implementing a very significant plan," he said.

"There's no question that if house prices rise and if pressure goes on rents it has a significant impact on those most marginalised, not just those who are homeless."

'Winning ugly is better than losing tidy' – John Key on the Australian election.

The outcome of Australia's election is important for New Zealand, and on the basis that the Coalition get there Malcolm Turnbull's biggest challenge is not election night, but about getting on and delivering results, says Prime Minister John Key.

"We need Australia over the next three years to be a strong and vibrant economy, they're our biggest trading partner, it's important to us,"

Full text of transcript:

CORIN The Prime Minister is with me now for some reaction to this Australian result. This is a nightmare result for a country like New Zealand; our biggest trading partner. Years of uncertainty with Prime Ministers, and yet it continues.

JOHN Yeah. It certainly shows you it's a challenging time in Australia, I think, and there's quite a contest about who has the right to govern, but ultimately, whoever wins – and let's make it on the basis that the coalition seem to believe that they can get there. I don't know enough about the marginals to tell you that's absolutely right – but on the basis that they do, they're going to put their best foot forward because we need Australia over the next three years to be strong and vibrant economy. They're our biggest trading partners. It's important to us.

CORIN Your mate Malcolm, he's got no mandate. I mean, he wants to implement a whole bunch of reforms. He can't do that. Australia is gridlocked again.

JOHN Well, that's not necessarily the case. A, it depends on what happens in the Senate, so there's capacity to actually pass legislation, but, look, like every government, you go to the polls, you put your best foot forward, you put your case forward about leading the country, and then when you get the responsibility, it doesn't matter how tight that result is. In the end you've got to get on and do your best for your country, because that's what New Zealanders, and in their case, Australians expect.

CORIN We're looking to Australia to try and get better deals on citizenship rights, trade, whatever. Malcolm Turnbull – if he is the Prime Minister – is going to be in a much more reduced position to offer us anything. He's going to be worrying about his own back.

JOHN He's going to have a reduced majority. That looks pretty clear on the basis that he can get there, but, look, in the end, it's a bit like a Rugby World Cup. You know, winning ugly is better than losing tidy. We happened to win the 2011 Rugby World Cup by a point. We don't remember that; we remember that we won. And so on the basis that the coalition get there, their challenge won't be worrying too much about election night 2016; it'll be getting on and trying to deliver results which mean they can get returned in 2019.

CORIN We have seen strong heartland results for independents in Australia. We've seen Pauline Hanson. She may get two Senate positions under this. Are we again seeing the rise of protectionism, nationalism? These trends which we've seen with the Brexit and with Trump flowing into Australian politics – are you worried about that?

JOHN I think it's in every country to a degree, so it's not new. For instance, it's in France. Le Pen's been there for a very long time.

CORIN But it's on the rise, isn't it?

JOHN There are different reasons in different places, and so you wouldn't want to read too much in it. I mean, Winston Peters isn't so much that he has that anti-immigration message, anti-trading message; has had that message for a very long time. I don't think you can translate what happens in Australia or necessarily in the United Kingdom to what's happening in New Zealand.

CORIN But why not? When we look at the inequality statistics out this week, when we see the top 10% of richest New Zealanders owning 59% of the wealth. That is an increase from 54%. And it's getting worse in New Zealand. Why isn't it right?

JOHN Firstly, that is one way of looking at those particular stats. There are a number. In fact, Stats New Zealand themselves said be very careful about comparing one against the other.

CORIN You can compare households, but that's the wealthiest New Zealanders.

JOHN Yeah, but, I mean, if you look over the last decade, you know, income equality's been about the same. You know, that's some sort of change, but that's because housing prices have probably been rising. It's likely--

CORIN Can I just stop you there, Prime Minister, because it seems at the moment every time a statistic comes out that your government doesn't like, you want to fight it, you want to argue it, you want to find another way of spinning it. And the problem with that is we have, this week, for example, your unemployment rate was reduced down by Statistics New Zealand.

JOHN Yeah, 5.2%. It's great.

CORIN We've got poverty action groups coming out saying this is your government, you know, manipulating the figures, which personally I think is ridiculous. That's their statisticians. But the point is people are arguing that because you argue the statistics every time.

JOHN We don't do that. We just try and put a bit of context around it because like anything, a statistic can be created and manipulated in any way you want to spin that, and so my simple point is just to say, yeah, it's broadly consistent with what's been there. It doesn't mean that there aren't issues or you don't need to address them. If you take housing, and I'd say what's driving that income asset size is house prices. And so that leads you right back to the point that one of the big drivers has got to be to ensure as many New Zealanders as possible that want to buy a house can buy a house.

CORIN But it's a fundamental point. If the statistics for the richest New Zealanders shows it is increasing under your watch, that is absolutely crucial because you're not improving it, not for New Zealanders.

JOHN We're not arguing that minor point, but what we are saying is there are three different ways of measuring it; there's three different stats, and if you look at all of them in totality, we're just simply saying you need to look at all of those. And your point's absolutely right. Statistics New Zealand brought down the unemployment rate to 5.2%. We didn't go out there and make a big song and dance about that either.

CORIN My point is people aren't going to believe what you say. They're not going to believe politicians. And it comes back to this idea around complacency and arrogance that people are starting to lose faith in what politicians are saying.

JOHN I don't think that's right. For a start off, if you look at our numbers, our numbers aren't moving in your TV ONE poll or anything else. There's always been a healthy degree of scepticism by the New Zealand public about what politicians say when it comes to stats. Because as you know if you watch

question time, which you do every week, the Opposition will always bend a stat one way or a quote one way and we'll do another.

CORIN I'll give you another example. The 90-day working trials, quality statistics from Motu, one of New Zealand's premier research institutes, done work for Treasury, saying the 90-day trials haven't really made much difference. You come out and say, 'Oh, no, anecdotally I've talked to café owners and it's working fine.' What are people supposed to believe?

JOHN Well, for a start off, okay, let's just argue that Motu's research is absolutely, categorically correct. If that was the case, then MBIE and Treasury would change their advice to the government. They're not. The second thing is that it is right when you go round and talk to these small employers. They do quote very extensively that they use the 90-day period, and it has given them confidence in what they do. And I think that's common sense. And actually, the Motu research itself says in a couple of big industries where it's been used extensively, it's been quite successful. So we're just simply saying it was one addition to flexibility in the labour market to give people a chance. New Zealand is a country of small businesses. I honestly think, and you can argue I'm wrong, but I honestly think if you had three employees, having the chance to take on one more in a 90-day period--

CORIN That's fine. We'll have a look at another couple of examples of where your government could be accused, I guess, of being arrogant. Bill English with his veto of the Paid Parental Leave Bill getting the numbers wrong quite significantly about how much extra it would cost. I mean, he's the Finance Minister. He shouldn't be getting those numbers wrong. Paula Bennett also saying 3000 new beds for the homeless. Matter of fact, they weren't new beds. These are important issues. Why is your government getting them wrong?

JOHN In amongst a multitude of both advice that ministers get and claims or statements that they make, of course you can always get a few things wrong. I've got a few things wrong. But that's not a sign of arrogance that the Finance Minister vetoes the bill. What he's saying is we've extended paid parental leave from 14 weeks to 18 weeks. We've made it more generous and--

CORIN But that's not the arrogance. The arrogance is him just blatantly getting the numbers wrong saying it was going to cost \$270m a year when it was, in fact, over four years.

JOHN Okay, but sometimes in the heat of all the things that go on, you sometimes a bit forget— or at least you get the calculations wrong--

CORIN The only time you've ever used the financial veto?

JOHN Well, okay, but again, the veto's been used extensively, and the veto was given to the Minister of Finance by parliament in the most democratic way of doing that.

CORIN But sorry, Prime Minister, that's not my point. My point is that surely there's no room for error on that when he's using that veto to criticise Labour's numbers. I'm not talking specifically about the issue. It's the perception here.

JOHN But people make mistakes or at least don't necessarily always say the full set of words. I mean, I could go and look at all of the Opposition claims. We don't hold them to account every five minutes on them because in the end, I'd be debating the minutiae as opposed to debating the point. The fundamental point is, in our assessment at the moment, we've come a long way extending paid parental leave and widening out the terms, and we want to do more. We just don't have any more cash at the moment.

CORIN I don't want to labour this point too much longer, but there's other examples. Take, say, the MFAT leak inquiry dismissed by, I think, Paula Bennett as the interpretation wasn't quite the same as some journalist. Commentators have described it as one of the most damning reports that they've seen, from the Ombudsman.

JOHN The only comments I saw from her rightfully so said that was an inquiry, legally, and therefore absolutely by law required to be done independently by the State Services Commissioner, and her point was the Commissioner needs to speak to the report, not the government because it's done under the State Services Act by the Commissioner. She's simply saying it's somebody else's report. It's like the Reserve Bank bringing out its monetary policy statement. It's not for the minister of finance, necessarily, to critique that; it's for the Reserve Bank to do that.

CORIN Let's move on to the issue of immigration. Kerry McDonald, who's a preeminent New Zealand businessman – for many years Comalco managing director – he wrote in a piece on his website just recently. He said immigration, and I quote, 'The high rate of immigration is a national disaster.' He said, 'It's lowering the present and future living standards of New Zealanders by serious adverse economic, social and environmental consequences.' Now, this isn't Winston Peters saying this; this is a respected economist and businessman who's worried about immigration not because of who's coming here but because we aren't able to cope with the numbers.

JOHN Okay, well, I don't think that the evidence bears that out. So for a start off, if you look at average wages in New Zealand, over the last 10 or so years, or the eight years that we've been in government, the average wage has risen \$11,000 and wages have been rising faster than inflation.

CORIN So what does that make the average wage?

JOHN Uh, well, \$58,000, I think.

CORIN So still about \$20,000-odd below where we are in Australia for the same rate.

JOHN Yeah, okay, but again we've been trying to close that gap over a very long period of time after wages. That happened and blew out over, again, decades. So it takes some time, but I think most New Zealanders would say we're making some progress there. And, by the way, if we weren't, to put to your point, it almost doesn't matter what the politicians say; it's what do New Zealanders think? And what we know is New Zealanders are not leaving like they were, and they're actually returning because they see opportunities, not because politicians say come back. It's because the opportunities are there for them to have that employment.

CORIN But on the flip side of that, Treasury, again, says in a recent report that there are signs that immigration keeps wages lower, that the profile of the people coming in tends to be those in low-skilled areas, and it's filling jobs that New Zealanders could fill and that it's keeping wages down. So the wage increases would be higher.

JOHN I don't think there's any doubt that we would like to see even more New Zealanders who could come off a benefit and go into employment. We agree with that, and we've been pushing that. One of the reasons, actually, we ran—

CORIN But they're just facing competition from migrants coming in. It's easier to get a migrant to do it.

JOHN I don't think that's quite right. I think it depends on a lot of factors. So for instance, some of the work can be seasonal, and so someone comes in, for instance, on a working holiday programme, which we have reciprocal rights for; we don't want to rip those up because they're part of our FTAs. Or, for instance, they come as part of RSE, which is almost a foreign policy thing where we bring in workers from the Pacific. But they often come in both for seasonal issues or location issues. So if you take Queenstown – go and ask any operator in Queenstown in the height of the season, they just cannot get workers. Now, there are people unemployed in other parts of New Zealand, and you might rightfully say pick them up and make them go to Queenstown, but it's not quite as simple as that when their family infrastructure and all those things are there.

CORIN But I guess the bigger point here is – is your government using strong immigration numbers to prop up an economy that is suffering from a dairy downturn to get you through past the next election with higher house prices? That's the accusation.

JOHN Okay, and the answer to that is, "No." Let's just go back and look at those numbers again for a few seconds. So, 2011, 2012, 40,000 New Zealanders net went to Australia, all right? This year we think it's 1712 so far of Australians have come to New Zealand or New Zealanders returning. So that's the big chunk of the change.

CORIN But hang on. But if you look at the numbers, you know – the 120,000-odd in total that have come here – it's only about a quarter that are returning New Zealanders.

JOHN Okay, that's right, because some come in and some go out. But my point is that major significant change has been that. The number of people getting residency in New Zealand, if you go back to when Winston Peters was Foreign Minister in 2006, it was in those early 50s. It was about 53,000. Today it's about 45,000.

CORIN You don't want immigration to fall, though, do you? I just want to say something. I saw you in a speech after the Budget, and you were speaking to a big room of businesspeople – some of the biggest business minds in the country – and you stood up and you said, "Don't worry about Treasury's figure or estimation that it will go back to the trend of 12,000." You were confident it was going to be a lot higher than that.

JOHN I just think it's unlikely it will go to 12,000.

CORIN But it was like you wanted immigration to go up, because you were telling them, "Don't worry. The demand in the economy is going to stay there. That's what's keeping New Zealand afloat."

JOHN No, but what I like about the fact that migration is strong is because it reflects, I think, returning Kiwis and a vote of confidence in New Zealand, and that we have an open economy. And personally, I actually think that New Zealand's much more successful country for that.

CORIN No, I disagree with you there. So the issue is – can New Zealand cope in terms of schools, infrastructure, roads? And the argument is we are not coping with that. We are not ready for that population growth. It means that the people living here, their living standards don't increase.

JOHN Okay, well, firstly, I don't agree with that. I think we can build roads and schools and hospitals, and we are. Secondly, Budget 2016 was considerably bigger in its new budget allowance – 1.5 billion as opposed to a billion – to reflect the growing pressures and demands from a growing population. Thirdly, I remember when I was leader of the Opposition, people used to get up, and the big debate in New Zealand was, "If you want to visit your grandkids, go to the departure lounge, because you better go and see them in Australia. Will the last person out please turn the lights off?" So now we've got an economy which is attractive to people, and people – a lot of New Zealanders coming back. But equally, we're not going to stop Australians coming, because we have free movement in labour markets; we're not going to stop people who come as either refugees or part of the Pacific Quota and things that we have; we're not going to stop people on a working holiday programme. We certainly don't want to stop students, because we're educating them.

CORIN There's one big problem with all of this, and really, that is housing. You haven't dealt with the housing crisis. So when you've got this rising population, and you've got a housing crisis in New Zealand, how can you allow those two to be together? You haven't fixed it.

JOHN Okay, so I think there's a few things. Firstly, to put a bit of context around it, in cities around the world where there's demand for housing, you're seeing very similar characteristics. So whether it's Los Angeles, Sydney, London, Dubai – you name it – those characteristics have been the same. I saw a speech from Justin Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, talking about exactly the same issue in Vancouver, in Toronto. The second thing is it's not true that we aren't addressing it. We have quite a comprehensive plan, and if you look at it, everything from the level of construction activity, the number of houses coming on stream, there are 24,000 more people—

CORIN No one disputes that you're doing a lot of work. You've got a lot of consents coming on. But the argument is it's not working. So do you need to throw up the white flag now and actually call a summit here and ask for New Zealanders to come together? Because what you are doing, which is a considerable amount, is still not working.

JOHN No, I think the argument isn't that it's not working; the argument from some people would be, "It's not working fast enough." And our point would be we are ramping that up as rapidly as we can. But even if you turn around tomorrow and have a summit and say, "We should build X number more houses," that doesn't resolve the issues of making sure the RMA permits that, making sure the land there permits that, making sure you have the workers to do that. If you look at the level of construction activity, we're on an 11-year high. We have more people in the construction industry than ever before. There is a huge amount of product coming on stream. So, yes, we've had to build that up.

CORIN So do you have any more ideas?

JOHN Well, you might have to wait and see today. But the point is that if you go and have a look at 2011 or my early years, actually, as prime minister – '08, '09, '10, '11 – we didn't discuss housing. Why? Because you had a global financial crisis; you didn't have the demand; there wasn't the confidence from people. In fact, actually, developers were going broke as opposed to the other way.

CORIN We weren't also discussing homelessness, were we? We weren't also discussing that. And that has risen under your watch.

JOHN Yes.

CORIN How does that make you feel personally when you hear story after story of people living in cars, of people dying – homeless people dying in recycling outfits? How does that make you feel?

JOHN Well, absolutely driven to do more and to help those people. There's no question, and we accept the view, that if house prices rise and if pressure goes on rents, it has a significant impact on the most marginalised – not just those that are homeless.

CORIN Do you accept homelessness has risen under your watch?

JOHN Yes, there are more people. But equally, we are also implementing a very significant plan there. So, again, 135 people a week are going to social housing initiatives. In the Budget, we had initiatives there long before the media actually started talking about the homeless factor. In fact, a year or so ago, Paula Bennett basically had a summit on a programme on exactly that issue. So there are many initiatives there. We accept those issues, but again, we just have to continue to focus to do more on it. I accept that.

CORIN Prime Minister John Key, thank you very much for your time.

JOHN Thank you, Corin.

ENDS

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
 FILE: 17/5476
 COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

Title: Malaysia: Reactions to Australian Election

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 05/07/2016 02:21:03 PM ZE8

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : East Asia Summit

From: Kuala Lumpur

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: The cable has the following attachment/s -

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Star 040716 Anti immigration Hanson.docx

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Edge Daily 050716 - Far right candidates emerge after close Australia
 vote.pdf

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Summary

Malaysian media covered the 2 July Australian election through limited, but factual, wire reporting. Outlets focussed on s 22(1)(a)(ii)

the return of 'divisive

politician' Pauline Hanson and s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
 FILE: 17/5476
 COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

More than 200 killed in Baghdad car bombing

Attack sparks anger among Iraqis at govt's inability to keep them safe

BY W & DUNLOP

BAGHDAD: Iraqis yesterday mourned the more than 200 people killed by a jihadist-claimed suicide car bombing that was among the deadliest-ever attacks in the country.

The blast, which the Islamic State (IS) group said it carried out, hit the Karrada district on early Sunday as the area was packed with shoppers ahead of this week's holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

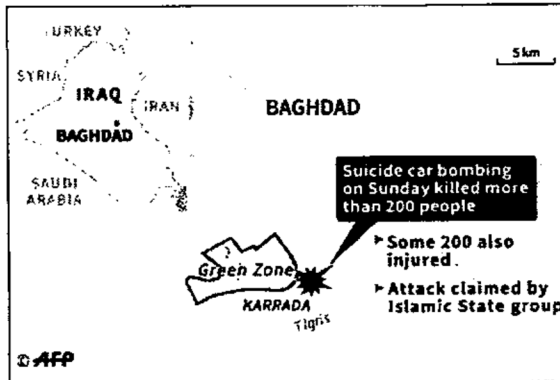
The attack sparked anger among Iraqis at the government's inability to keep them safe even as its forces push IS back, and prompted Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to announce ef-

orts to address long-standing flaws in Baghdad security measures.

Abadi's office announced three days of national mourning for the victims of the attack and he vowed to "punish" the perpetrators of the blast.

The attack, which security and medical officials told AFP killed at least 213 people and wounded more than 200, came a week after the country's forces recaptured Fallujah from IS, leaving Mosul as the only Iraqi city under the jihadist group's control.

The blast sparked infernos in nearby buildings, and emergency personnel and family and friends of the victims were still searching yesterday for those missing following the explosion. — AFP



Thailand sets up security centres ahead of referendum

BY AMY SAWITTA LEFEVRE, PANARAT THEPUNPANT & PATRICIA TANAKASEMPITAT

BANGKOK: Thailand's military government has set up security centres around the country ahead of an August referendum on a new constitution, a spokesman for the government said yesterday.

The centres are the latest measure rolled out by the government as Thailand prepares to vote on a new constitution that critics fear will entrench the military's influence.

The draft of Thailand's 20th constitution is to replace one scrapped after a 2014 coup by generals who promised stability in Thailand.

The Aug 7 referendum will be the first real test of the junta's popularity since it took power.

A "Centre for Maintaining Peace and Order" has been set up in every one of Thailand's 76 provinces, said Major General Sansern Kaewkamnerd, spokesman for the Thai prime minister's office. In order to ensure "no cheating, no lobbying and no persuading people to vote one way or another."

Provincial governors will be responsible for assembling teams to join the centres including police and civilian volunteers.

The red shirts say the centres are needed to prevent fraud.

Thanawat Wichaidit, a spokesman for the red shirt movement, accused the government of double standards.

— Reuters

Far-right candidates emerge after close Australia vote

BY JANE WARDELL & JONATHAN BARRETT

SYDNEY: Independent candidates who will likely determine a cliff-hanger Australian election shot to prominence yesterday, one of them renewing anti-Asian rhetoric first heard 20 years ago, with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull under fire for a failed political gamble.

Pauline Hanson, founder of the controversial far-right One Nation party, used the political limbo that has resulted from Saturday's close vote to push her far-right agenda that first won her international notoriety in 1996, warning that Australia was being "swamped by Asians."

"A lot of Australians feel that Asians are buying up prime agricultural land, housing," Hanson said at a fiery media conference in Brisbane yesterday, where she also reiterated her anti-Islam stance.

"Do you want to see terrorism on our streets here? Do you want to see our Australians murdered?" she said.

With the two major parties, the conservative Liberal-National coalition and centre-left Labor, sitting on the sidelines waiting for a result that could take days, it was left to another independent, centrist Nick Xenophon, to mount a defence of multicultural Australia.

The power vacuum that allowed Hanson to re-emerge showed just how badly Turnbull's gamble of dissolving both houses of parliament, to clear out minor parties and independents he said were blocking his reformist agenda, had failed.

Saturday's election was meant to end political turmoil that had seen four prime ministers in three years. Instead, it left Turnbull's own leadership in question less than a year after he ousted then prime minister Tony Abbott in a party-room coup.

"I think in the end he should be asking himself if he has done the Liberal Party a service or a disservice," Corey Bernardi, a senator from Turnbull's Liberal Party, said.

Labor leader Bill Shorten also called on Turnbull to quit, likening his position to that of British Prime Minister David Cameron after last month's "Brexit" vote.

Turnbull, acting as caretaker prime minister while vote counting continues, appeared to have underestimated the protest vote that stole support from both major parties and must now negotiate with minor parties and independents to retain power.

Vote counting for the upper house Senate resumed yesterday but counting for the lower House of Representatives did not restart until today. The delayed counting was a result of new security measures by the Australian Electoral Commission. — Reuters

HK officials to visit Beijing for talks over bookseller

HONG KONG: A senior Hong Kong delegation will head to Beijing for talks following explosive revelations by a bookseller, who said he was detained for eight months on the mainland, the city's leader said yesterday.

Lam Wing-kee, 61, has said he was seized after crossing the border into the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, taken away blindfolded and then kept in a cell without access to a lawyer for alleged involvement in bringing banned books into the mainland.

The case has laid bare growing anxiety that the semi-autonomous

city's freedoms are disappearing.

Lam was one of five employees of a Hong Kong firm — which published gossip books about leading Chinese politicians — to go mysteriously missing last year. All later emerged in mainland China.

Hong Kong's Beijing-backed chief executive Leung Chun-ying said a team of senior officials would visit Beijing today to discuss Lam's case and review the "existing notification mechanism between the two places".

Under that mechanism, authorities in the mainland are required to give clear details about arrests and

detentions of Hong Kong citizens over the border, a procedure critics say went disastrously wrong in the booksellers' case.

"[Officials] will go to Beijing tomorrow morning (today) ... [and] meet with relevant departments in order to improve the existing mechanism. It will be a comprehensive and in-depth review," Leung told reporters.

He added mainland authorities would also brief the Hong Kong officials, including the city's justice and security ministers as well as heads of police and immigration, on Lam's case. — AFP

IN BRIEF

Pacific Ocean radiation back to normal after Fukushima — study

SYDNEY: Radiation levels across the Pacific Ocean are rapidly returning to normal five years after a meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant spewed gases and liquids into the sea, a study showed yesterday. Japan shut down dozens of reactors after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake-generated tsunami on March 11, 2011 triggered one of the largest-ever dumps of nuclear material into the world's oceans. In the days following the quake and explosions in Fukushima, seawater meant to cool the nuclear reactors instead carried radioactive elements back into the Pacific, with currents dispersing it widely. After analysing data from 20 studies of radioactivity associated with the plant, it found radiation levels in the Pacific were rapidly returning to normal. — AFP

Russian couple murdered, dismembered in Fiji

SUVA (Fiji): A Russian couple from Fiji are thought to have been murdered and dismembered after human body parts washed up on a beach in the Pacific island nation. The *Fiji Sun* said two pairs of feet wrapped in netting and weighed down with stones were found on June 24 at Natadola beach, a popular tourist destination. Further searches uncovered more remains, with speculation connecting the grisly find to the disappearance a week earlier of Russian couple Yuri and Natalia Shipulin. Lead investigator Luke Navela said DNA tests with the Shipulins' relatives back in Russia had confirmed the link, and police now believed they had been murdered, the *Fiji Sun* reported. — AFP

Blast outside US consulate in Jeddah

RIYADH: A suicide bomber was killed and two people were wounded in a blast near the US consulate in Saudi Arabia's second city of Jeddah early yesterday, state TV said, the first bombing in years to attempt to target foreigners in the kingdom. The attacker parked his car outside a hospital opposite the consulate at about 2.15am and detonated his device after being approached by two security men, killing him and lightly wounding them, it said, quoting a security spokesman. Three further blasts rocked the location of the bombing hours later, a witness told Reuters. — Reuters

China bus arsonist who killed 18 condemned to die

BEIJING: A man convicted of killing 18 people when he set a public bus on fire in China has been sentenced to death, authorities said. Ma Yongping, 34, in January set alight the bus in Yinchuan, capital of the remote northern region of Ningxia, leaving 18 people dead and another 32 injured. — AFP

Anti-immigration Hanson on cusp of Australia poll return

4 July 2016

SYDNEY: Divisive Australian politician Pauline Hanson (*pic*), who once claimed Asians were in danger of swamping the country, was on the cusp of being re-elected to parliament after a near 20-year absence.

She is one of a host of minor party candidates or independents on track to win upper house Senate seats, as voters disillusioned with the ruling conservatives and Labour opposition opted for change.

The final counts are not yet settled but Hanson, who rose to prominence in the 1990s as head of the right-wing, anti-immigration One Nation party she co-founded, is forecast to again be headed to Canberra.

"I have got no problems with anyone, if they have got a problem with me, that's their issue, not mine," she said yesterday, adding that the major parties needed to start listening to grassroots Australians.

"I'm the person that's going to come in, like the cleaner, if they don't clean your house properly you get rid of them and you have a clean sweep of the broom."

But Hanson, who wants a halt to Muslim immigration and have a national inquiry into whether Islam is a religion or a political ideology, has already created waves.

Greens leader Richard Di Natale said it was "certain" Hanson had made a successful return to the parliament and his party would do all it could to keep her in check.

"The Greens will stand against her racist and bigoted agenda," he said.

"There is no place for bigotry, for the sort of hatred that she is spreading through her views, that have no place in a modern 21st century Australia. We will be the opposition to her in the Senate, taking it right up to her and letting her know that we would rather be a country that doesn't pray on people's fears and anxieties but appeals to their better nature." — AFP

Title: Netherlands: Secretary-General MFA s 22(1)(a)(ii)

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 04/08/2016 02:52:31 PM CEDT

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : Brussels, EU Posts, Geneva UN, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Kyiv, London, Moscow, Paris EMB, UN New York, Washington, Wellington

From: The Hague

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

[REDACTED]

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Comment

8. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(b)

s 33(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Sri Lanka: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
MRN: CL6784H 05/08/2016 12:33:57 PM ZE5B
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Bangkok, Chennai, Colombo, Dhaka, Islamabad, Jakarta, Kabul, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, Wellington
From: Colombo
From File: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
The cable has the following attachment/s -
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

*** THE FOLLOWING CONTAINS SENSITIVE INFORMATION ***

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Strategic communications and media

11. Sri Lankan media s 22(1)(a)(ii)

There was factual reporting on people smuggling discourse in the context of Australia's federal election campaign, and on the anti-immigration stance of One Nation. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
FILE: 17/5476
COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

Title: Singapore: Editorial on Australia and economic reforms
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 12/08/2016 03:10:42 PM ZE8
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : ASEAN Posts, Aust Economic Posts
From: Singapore
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
The cable has the following attachment/s -
BusinessTimesEditorial_160810.pdf
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

Singapore's Business Times newspaper has published a veiled rebuke on the Australian economy (attached), calling on the Australian government to start reforms as a response to investor uncertainty, the Reserve Bank's recent rate cut and a political situation that involves "the anti-Asian Pauline Hanson." s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australia needs new economic direction; Turnbull should start on reforms

AUG 10, 2016 5:50 AM

THERE was a whiff of panic in the Australian central bank's decision last week to cut the official interest rate by 25 basis points to 1.5 per cent. It is being speculated that the Reserve Bank (RBA) had to act because the local currency was again edging up against the US dollar, due to the interest rate differentials. Commodity producers, who form the bulk of Australia's rural economy, were getting agitated as the Australian dollar's rise priced out their produce in competitive markets. Farmers form the backbone of the National Party, the junior partner in the ruling coalition.

Admittedly, the decision was made as the latest inflation data showed that consumer prices rose just one per cent, well below the bank's preferred target of 2-3 per cent. Perhaps, there was fear that the Australian economy could slip into a deflationary cycle.

The RBA also seems to have assumed that people in the mortgage belt would get an effective boost in incomes if lending institutions passed on the cuts to their customers. Unfortunately, the big lenders have decided to pass on only a fraction of the RBA's cut. Instead, the four largest lending institutions in Australia have decided that depositors should be rewarded with a small lift to fixed term interest rates.

One of the reasons being floated for the big banks' behaviour is that they want to squeeze out the smaller lenders who depend on fixed deposits which they mediate for their mortgage business. Another theory is that the big lenders want to build up a larger deposit base as a hedge against fresh financial turmoil in world markets. Either way, the rate cut is unlikely to have a major impact on consumer spending except for the small fall in the value of the local currency against the greenback.

RBA also decided to ignore the possibility that housing prices in the major urban centres, especially Sydney and Melbourne, would start rising again. One survey shows that home prices are still rising at 5-6 per cent a year and thus the housing bubble is still inflating. Other surveys, however, show slackening demand for home loans and, consequently, moderating home prices in these markets.

All this goes to show how difficult it is to get any particular economic outcome with the limited tools available to a central bank. Investors and markets in Australia are uncertain because the political situation is still not clear. The results of the July 2 election show the government of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull hanging on with a one-seat majority in the House of Representatives. But his fortunes in the Senate are worse than it was before the election and the voting changes he introduced. Not only does he not have a Senate majority, he has to contend with the likes of the anti-Asian Pauline Hanson who has three other members from her party in that chamber.

Clearly, there is an undercurrent of anger with the current crop of politicians and their policies. Perhaps the time has come for Mr Turnbull to start working out his economic reform plans. Hopefully, these plans will be both inclusive and broad-based. For too long, Australians have been content to assume that the mining boom and commodity exports to the region would always see them through hard times. Australia needs a new economic direction..

SUBSCRIBE TO THE BUSINESS TIMES NOW :CALL +65 388 3838 | BTSUBSCRIBE.SG

SPH DIGITAL NEWS

© 2016 SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS LTD. REGN NO. 198402668E

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
 FILE: 17/5476
 COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

Title: Shanghai: Australia-China Relations: The Next Chapter
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 21/09/2016 04:34:45 PM ZE8
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : China Posts, London, Seoul, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington, Wellington
From: Shanghai
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Information Only

DECLASSIFIED

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 11 September 2016, Post attended the inaugural annual Australia-China Forum, titled "The Australia-China Relations: The Next Chapter", hosted by La Trobe University and the East China Normal University (ECNU), Shanghai's leading university in Australian studies. The forum convened a panel of experts to discuss the recent challenges that confronted the bilateral relationship. Panellists included **Geoff Raby**, former Australian Ambassador to China (2007–2011), **Lisa Murray**, China Correspondent for the Australian Financial Review, and **Professor Hou Minyue**, Deputy Director of the ECNU Australian Studies Centre. Cable reports the comments shared by panellists at the forum.

In the national interest

2. **Raby** said the Australian government's recent decision on Ausgrid was both populist and protectionist. This followed Prime Minister Turnbull's gruelling election campaign, where third-party populists such as Pauline Hanson received larger than expected public support. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
FILE: 17/5476
COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

Title: UNESCO: Inter-faith Dialogue and Engagement with the community of Toowoomba, "Model City of Peace"
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 22/09/2016 04:23:13 PM CEDT
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Brisbane, Geneva UN, UN New York
From: Paris UNESCO
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The International Peace Conference 2016 "Achieving world peace and harmony through religious education and engagement" was held from 14 to 16 September 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters.s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
FILE: 17/5476
COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

5. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

In the ensuing question and answer session, a question was raised by a delegate from Brunei concerning the fact that Pauline Hanson, a prominent anti-multiculturalism figure, has a following in the region. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: China:s 22(1)(a)(ii)
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 06/10/2016 04:04:17 PM ZE8
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : China Posts
From: Beijing
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Information Only

PROTECTED

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

While hosting a farewell lunch for DHOM on 29 October, s 33(a)(iii)
raised a number of bilateral
issues. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. s 33(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: India: HOM meeting with s 47F(1)
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 18/10/2016 05:40:24 PM ZE5B
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Brisbane, Chennai, Mumbai
From: New Delhi
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Requires Action

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47F(1)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

met with HOM at his request on 17 October

4. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: UK: Norfolk Island: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 28/10/2016 06:48:34 PM GDT
To: Canberra
Cc: PP : Commonwealth Posts, Geneva UN, Paris UNESCO, UN New York,
Vienna UN, Wellington
From: London
From File: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The cable has the following attachment/s -
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
20161019 PH letter to PM Turnbull re Norfolk Island Administrator.pdf
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Priority, Requires Action by 18/11/2016

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

4. s 33(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Senator Pauline Hanson
One Nation Senator for Queensland

Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au

Wednesday 19 October 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

I write seeking your urgent, decisive action to resolve a matter of utmost seriousness. Following my arrival on Norfolk Island this week, I have been furnished with evidence of serious misconduct involving the Australian Government's vice-regal representative on the island, Norfolk Island Administrator Gary Hardgrave. Based on the allegations that have been made, there appears to be a strong case for the immediate dismissal of Mr Hardgrave as Administrator.

A request has been made for the Administrator to meet with me during my visit this week, however I have been informed that neither he, nor an alternate representative, are available. I will be on Norfolk Island until Friday and would ask for your assistance with facilitating a meeting with the Administrator to discuss the issues outlined below, as well as the broader situation on Norfolk Island.

My examinations thus far have uncovered actions that amount to clear breaches of the responsibilities and appropriate behaviours incumbent on this important public office. In some cases these extend to deliberately misleading the Australian Parliament, successive Government Ministers, and the Australian people.

Mr Hardgrave appears to have misled the Australian Parliament and successive Government Ministers through his repeated claims that genuine democratic consultation with the people of Norfolk Island occurred prior to the abolition of self-governance, and that the majority of Norfolk Island residents support these changes. These statements do not stand up to examination. A referendum held on the island last year found almost 70 per cent of residents were opposed to the Commonwealth takeover. The community organisation coordinating the campaign for the return of self-governance, the Norfolk Island People for Democracy, counts more than two thirds of voters on the electoral roll as registered members. My independent discussions with other local residents have also revealed an overwhelming opposition to the governance system that has been imposed on the island.

Mr Hardgrave has also reportedly acted to prevent Australian Ministers and other representatives from hearing the concerns of the Norfolk Island community. For instance, during the most recent visit by Minister for Territories Fiona Nash, the Administrator refused to allow a number of local representative organisations to meet with her, including the Norfolk Island Council of Elders, the Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce, and the Norfolk Island Accommodation and Tourism Association. This is completely unacceptable behaviour that must be urgently addressed.

Residents report that Mr Hardgrave has been a divisive, counterproductive figure on Norfolk Island since his appointment in 2014. He is accused of bringing disrepute to the office of Administrator. These allegations include ill-tempered outbursts at public meetings, disrespectful statements in the local media, and extremely offensive statements in private. One example, which has been documented in statutory declarations by a number of witnesses, involved Mr Hardgrave telling a private function that there were a number of Norfolk Islanders that he would like to see buried under a bridge that was under construction. These actions are completely unbecoming of the high office to which he has been appointed and confirm the inappropriateness of him retaining this role.

Mr Hardgrave is also accused of using his powers as Administrator to censor political discussion. He is alleged to have personally coordinated the takeover of Norfolk Island's community radio station, which resulted in many locals being removed from their programs, and other residents being banned from being interviewed on the station. Likewise, a local public servant who was critical of the Administrator on social media was forced to accept a pay cut as punishment, and was later terminated from her employment. This deliberate muzzling of free speech is an attack on a fundamental tenant of a healthy democracy and runs completely counter to the freedom of political speech enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

**Commonwealth Parliamentary
Offices**
Waterfront Place
Level 36, 1 Eagle Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Office +61 7 3221 7644
Fax +61 7 3221 8422
Parliament House: +61 2 6277 3134
Senator.Hanson@aph.gov.au



Senator Pauline Hanson
One Nation Senator for Queensland

In addition, allegations have been made of preferential treatment for friends and associates of Mr Hardgrave. These include the awarding of large contracts without a tender process, as well as his personal intervention to have employment awarded to candidates who were found to be unqualified, or underqualified, for particular roles when more suitable candidates had also applied. These allegations involve the potential waste of millions of dollars of Australian taxpayer dollars, without appropriate oversight or accountability.

A further shocking allegation comes from members of a recent parliamentary delegation from the United Kingdom. They have accused Mr Hardgrave of deliberately misleading them in several interactions. In the most flagrant example, they report that the Administrator informed them that local residents had burnt down half a dozen homes bought by the Australian Government to house workers involved in the recent takeover of Norfolk Island governance. Emergency Management Norfolk Island subsequently provided a report of all fire incidents on Norfolk Island. This report confirmed that no house fire of any kind has occurred since 2012. Mr Hardgrave is accused of deliberately alleging a serious act of criminality in an attempt to undermine the reputation of the people of Norfolk Island, despite knowing it to be completely false.

I share the concerns of the people of Norfolk Island that Mr Hardgrave has failed to uphold the obligations of his high office and should be immediately replaced.

As Prime Minister, you have an obligation to immediately act to resolve this situation. I would ask that you immediately recall Mr Hardgrave, and replace him with a figure — in consultation with the Norfolk Island community — who is capable of rebuilding damaged relationships with Australia. Additionally, I would seek the immediate dispatching of independent experts to Norfolk Island to investigate the allegations of waste, mismanagement, and preferential treatment.

I await your urgent response.

Ms Pauline Hanson
Senator for Queensland

Commonwealth Parliamentary
Offices
Waterfront Place
Level 36, 1 Eagle Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Office +61 7 3221 7644
Fax +61 7 3221 8422
Parliament House: +61 2 6277 3134
Senator.Hanson@aph.gov.au

Title: Iran: s 47F(1)
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 30/10/2016 10:19:05 AM ZE3B
To: Beijing; Canberra; Europe Posts; Geneva UN; Iraq Syria ISIL Daesh Posts; Islamabad; Kabul; London; Middle East Posts; Ottawa; Paris EMB; UN New York; Washington; Wellington
Cc:
From: Tehran
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Requires Action

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On October 17, s 47F(1)
introductory conversation. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

called on us (HOM/ s 22(1)(a)(ii)) at the Embassy for an

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

5. s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends

Title: Shanghai: Assistant Minister Pitt's visit to Shanghai 23–26 October 2016
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 31/10/2016 09:50:39 AM ZE8
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : China Posts
From: Shanghai
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Information Only

[REDACTED]

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Minister Keith Pitt visited Shanghai from 23–26 October 2016 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian business representatives

6. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 board members from the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai
(AustCham) briefed Mr Pitt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

7. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

 Board members were concerned about the impact Senator Pauline
Hanson's recent political revival might have on China.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
 FILE: 17/5476
 COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

Title: Questions in the House of Representatives and Senate for Monday 7 November 2016

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 08/11/2016 09:58:36 AM ZE10

To: FAF Posts

Cc:

From: Canberra (CHCH/DFAT/PCD/PMB)

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: The cable has the following attachment/s -

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

071116 Senate Roberts to Sinodinos - Climate Change.pdf

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

This cable advises questions relevant to the portfolio that were asked in the House of Representatives and the Senate on Monday 7 November 2016. Relevant transcripts are attached.

This cable advises questions relevant to the portfolio that were asked in the House of Representatives and the Senate on Monday 7 November 2016. Relevant transcripts are attached.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Senate

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
FILE: 17/5476
COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

- The Cabinet Secretary was asked a question from Malcolm Roberts (PHON, QLD) about climate change.

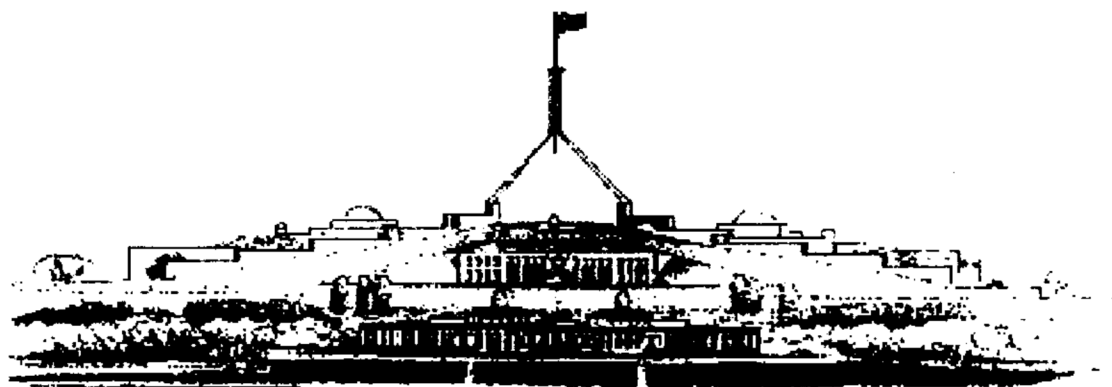
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
FILE: 17/5476
COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE
PROOF
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Climate Change

QUESTION

Monday, 7 November 2016

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

QUESTION

Date Monday, 7 November 2016
Page 43
Questioner Roberts, Sen Malcolm
Speaker

Source Senate
Proof Yes
Responder Sinodinos, Sen Arthur
Question No.

Climate Change

Climate Change

Senator ROBERTS (Queensland) (14:32): My question is to Senator Sinodinos representing the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Mr Hunt. On 26 September 2016, the CSIRO made a presentation to me led by its chief executive, Dr Larry Marshall. They provided no empirical evidence that carbon dioxide from human activity affects global climate. Senator Sinodinos, are you aware that the CSIRO refused to state that there is any danger indicated in the last 200 years of climate records. Further, they showed no empirical evidence of any unusual changes in climate. Further, they have not done their due diligence—as an example, the Bureau of Meteorology has truncated data, reduced the 1930s warming period and inflated recent temperatures. Would Senator Sinodinos please explain the process by which the government has come to do due diligence and the evidence that it relies upon for its current policy on climate?

Opposition senators interjecting—

The PRESIDENT: Order on my left! The Cabinet Secretary representing the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Senator Sinodinos.

Senator SINODINOS (New South Wales—Cabinet Secretary) (14:33): I thank the honourable member for his question and for his interest in climate change and climate science. The first point I would make is that, as a new member of the chamber, Senator Roberts was afforded the opportunity of a briefing with the CSIRO. It was a two-hour scientific briefing in Sydney on 26 September 2016, organised at his request. Dr Marshall as well as senior scientists from CSIRO made themselves available through Senate estimates to answer additional questions from Senator Roberts. Senator Roberts had the benefit of what I thought was a delightful exchange with the Chief Scientist at estimates. I was at the table representing the minister. Having listened closely to the Chief Scientist and having received information from you, Senator Roberts, over the years, I have seen nothing to sway me from the view, which is the view of this government, about the reality of climate change, the importance of tackling it and the fact that the government is on the right track in doing that. I suggest that if you have any evidence that appears to contradict any of this, of course, it is always open to you in a public arena to put that evidence.

We as a government have to deal with these issues in a very precautionary way, and the balance of the science and of the evidence is clearly in favour of the proposition that we have to do things about climate change and climate science. We in this chamber can have legitimate differences about how to do that. But if we are getting to the state in this country where everybody wants to be selective about the facts that they use to support particular propositions then I think we are on a very dangerous course. It is very important for us, as policy makers, to understand where the balance of risks lie, and the balance of risks lie, in this case, in putting our heads in the sand and believing climate change does not exist.

The PRESIDENT: Senator Roberts, a supplementary question.

Senator ROBERTS (Queensland) (14:35): I wish to advise you, Mr President, and Senator Sinodinos through you that tomorrow evening in Parliament House there will be a public presentation of the empirical evidence contradicting what the senator has just said. Given that I and my team of world-leading scientists and I publicly exposed that, will the government please outline the cost-benefit analysis that it has done for its current climate policies?

Senator SINODINOS (New South Wales—Cabinet Secretary) (14:36): I do not have time available to set out the full cost-benefit analysis of dealing with this matter. The thing we have to remember in dealing with this matter is that we are dealing with this not only in a national sense but also in an international sense. We have

been part of a whole series of international panels which have looked at these issues. In that context, I reject the proposition that somehow there is some vast global conspiracy which has sought to put the world on this particular course. The fact of the matter is that it is a free country and you can present whatever facts you like, but I believe we have to go with the overall preponderance of the science.

The PRESIDENT: Senator Roberts, a final supplementary question.

Senator ROBERTS (Queensland) (14:36): It is remarkable that we have just heard the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science state that it is just not a matter of facts. What we want is the science, and I want to know why the government, now that he has raised the international issues, has not provided a complete, proper, rigorous and required cost-benefit analysis of the Paris climate agreement before foisting it on everyday Australians and Queenslanders.

Senator SINODINOS (New South Wales—Cabinet Secretary) (14:37): There was a lot of preparatory work in the lead-up to Paris. That work involved evaluating the impact of the science to date and evaluating the impact of the measures we have taken as a country. We took a measured approach to our targets for 2020 and 2030. We will continue to do that. One thing that is clear is that the coalition is dealing seriously with this issue in a way which manages the transition in the interests of employment and in the interests of all Australians.

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
FILE: 17/5476
COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

Title: India: International Media Visit: program completed

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 22/11/2016 10:33:55 AM ZE10

To: Chennai; Mumbai; New Delhi

Cc:

From: Canberra (CHCH/DFAT/SWD/IBB)

From File: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EDRMS

Files:

References: The cable has the following attachment/s -
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From 15 to 23 September, DFAT (through the Australia-India Council) delivered a very successful International Media Visit (IMV) for three high-calibre Indian journalists. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

11. s 47F(1) (The Wire) raised Pauline Hanson, s 22(1)(a)(ii) with all interlocutors. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

12. For s 47F(1) (The Hindu), being interviewed by Noel Debien, presenter of ABC's radio show 'Sunday Nights' was a highlight. Discussions on either side of the interview touched on s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
government.

and Pauline Hanson's recent return to

13. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

reporting in India on Pauline Hanson was being closely monitored. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

She added that

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
 FILE: 17/5476
 COPY ISSUED UNDER FOI Act 1982

Title: Questions asked in the House of Representatives and the Senate –
 Monday 13 February 2017

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 14/02/2017 11:24:01 AM ZE10

To: FAF Posts

Cc:

From: Canberra (CHCH/DFAT/PCD/PMB)

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: The cable has the following attachment/s -
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 130217 - HoR - Plibersek to Bishop - Foreign Policy.pdf
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

This cable advises questions relevant to the portfolio that were asked in the House of Representatives and the Senate on Monday 13 February 2017. Relevant transcripts from Hansard are attached.

This cable advises questions relevant to the portfolio that were asked in the House of Representatives and the Senate on Monday 13 February 2017. Relevant transcripts from Hansard are attached.

House of Representatives

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

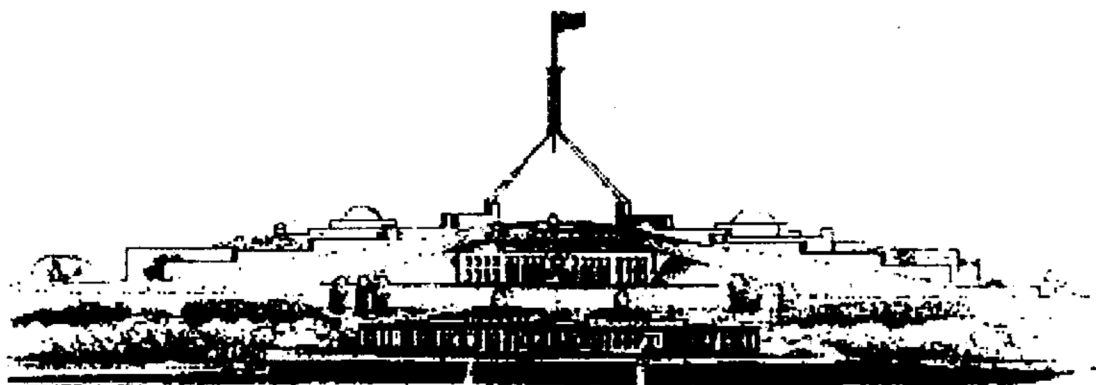
The Minister for Foreign Affairs was asked a question by Tanya Plibersek (ALP, Sydney) about the influence of One Nation leader Senator Hanson on foreign policy approaches.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROOF

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Pauline Hanson's One Nation

QUESTION

Monday, 13 February 2017

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date Monday, 13 February 2017
Page 63
Questioner Plibersek, Tanya, MP
Speaker

Source House
Proof Yes
Responder Bishop, Julie, MP
Question No.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation

Pauline Hanson's One Nation

Ms PLIBERSEK (Sydney—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): My question is to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. One Nation has called for Australia to end its membership of the United Nations, and just last week Senator Pauline Hanson dismissed concerns over Vladimir Putin's role in the deaths of almost 300 people, including 38 Australians, on flight MH17. What does this say about the government's approach to foreign policy, when a member of cabinet describes a party with this approach as 'sophisticated'? Have any diplomatic posts raised concerns about Senator Hanson's influence?

Ms JULIE BISHOP (Curtin—Minister for Foreign Affairs) (14:22): I thank the member for her question. I really do think it is a bit rich for Labor to be lecturing us on One Nation preferences when the member for Dobell was elected on those preferences. I also think it is a bit rich—

Opposition members interjecting—

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!

Mr Pyne interjecting—

Mr Dutton interjecting—

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the House. The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will resume her seat. The Leader of the House and the minister for immigration and numerous people on my left are preventing the minister from answering the question that has been asked. I will not tolerate this level of interjection any further throughout the answer. The minister has the call.

Ms JULIE BISHOP: I think it is pretty rich for the member for Sydney to seek to lecture us on preferences that are determined by the state divisions when the Labor Party unquestioningly accepts Greens preferences, does deals with the Greens and, in fact, entered into a coalition with the Greens, who has a view of one world government, who wants to tear up the US-Australia alliance and who would have to represent the most dangerous political train of thought in Australian politics. Labor unquestioningly does deals with the Greens. They are the risk to foreign policy in this country—a Labor-Greens coalition.