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~~CONFIDENTIAL COMINT CHANNELS~~

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CITE: SM-016-85

SUBJ: PROJECT MARSIK

A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF A CRAY
COMPUTER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE WILL BE ^{RELEASED} MADE TODAY
(FRIDAY 1 MARCH) BY THE MINISTER AT APPROX 2.30 PM.

2. THE FORM OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS THE RESULT OF CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION WITHIN DSD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ISSUES
INVOLVED, AND IS DESIGNED TO BOTH INDICATE THAT THE PROCUREMENT
IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH CURRENTLY CONTROVERSIAL DEFENCE TECHNOLOGIES
SUCH AS NUCLEAR OR SPACE RESEARCH

3. THE EXPECTED FORM OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

NEW DEFENCE COMPUTER SYSTEM

THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED THE ACQUISITION OF A COMPUTER
SYSTEM FROM CRAY RESEARCH INCORPORATED OF THE UNITED STATES
SUBJECT TO THE CONCLUSION OF SATISFACTORY CONTRACTUAL

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ARRANGEMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE. IT WILL REPLACE AN EXISTING OUTDATED COMPUTER USED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE FOR TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE. THERE WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO AUSTRALIA, AND ITS SUPPORT WILL LARGELY EMPLOY AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES. THE GOVERNMENT'S CHOICE OF SUPPLIER, MADE AFTER VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE ISSUES INVOLVED, WAS DETERMINED BY THE SPECIALISED REQUIREMENTS.

4. AS INDICATED IN THE RELEASE CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT YET FINISHED. HOWEVER IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL BE CONCLUDED WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

5. CRAY PERSONNEL

OF TECHWAY HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS AND ASKED TO REFER ANY ENQUIRIES BACK TO DEFENCE. THE DEFENCE CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES IS THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PRESS RELATIONS, DEFENCE DEPARTMENT,

IN PARTICULAR, IT HAS BEEN EMPHASISED TO THEM THAT NO INDICATION OF CONFIGURATION OR PRICE IS TO BE DISCLOSED,

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