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New File 1426/227/19

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TRANSFER OF CERTAIN COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES FROM CANBERRA TO DARWIN

OIC REGISTRY - New File pse

DCNS

DDM

D/WRANS

Copy No. 1

DOA

DCNP

DNW

DAP

Copy No. 2

DEE Copy No. 3

DSD

By DSD

The following action was agreed upon at the meeting held on 28th May, 1962 to discuss how to implement the requirement to transfer from HARMAN (Canberra Naval Radio Station) to MELVILLE (Darwin Naval Radio Station), approximately 50 communication personnel as quickly as feasible over the next few years.

#### 2. Provision of Personnel

(a) DDM

to draft any available LRO(S) from HARMAN (understood to number 2) as soon as the drafting rules permit.

(b) DDM

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to forecast draft of about 6 ORO(S) from sea to H.RMAN for 4 weeks' training, then to M.LVILLE (number depends on how many ORO(S) go to sea from current class, and on necessity to retain some ORO(S) down south).

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- (c) D/WRANS to draft 18 WRANS RO(3) plus necessary additional "administrative" personnel from HARMAN to MELVILLE as soon as accommodation is available (see para. 3 below)
- (d) DOA to note the requirement to train an (SD)(C) officer for the billet at present occupied by Lt.-Commander Richardson. Officer to be trained by mid 1964. Billet to be shifted from HARMAN to MELVILLE, when accommodation is available for remainder of handling party.
- to propose amendments to Schemes of Complement covering the transfer of billets to MELVILLE; to cover Stages 1 and 2 only transfer, i.e. a total of 30 communication personnel. Stage 3, the transfer in (about) 1964 of 21 handling personnel to be left for later.
- (f) DDM and to note the requirement to draft additional D/WRANS personnel -
  - (i) to complete the stage 2 transfer of complement billets, subject to availability of accommodation (see paragraph 3 below) in 1963 or 1964
  - (ii) to execute stage 3 in 1964 or 1965

#### 3. Provision of Domestic Accommodation

- (a) Introduction the present domestic accommodation situation at Darwin Naval Radio Station for men and women is set out in the appendix to this minute.
- (b) DCNP to approve the assignment by NOIC NA of two of the six houses at present nearing completion, for the accommodation of approximately 20 additional WRANS, to meet the initial urgent requirement.
- (c) DNW to provide accommodation at Darwin Naval Radio Station for an additional 50 personnel. Assuming that for the reasons stated at the meeting it is decided to use houses, the requirement divides into two stages -
  - (i) two houses as soon as possible, (say by the end of 1963) to replace the two borrowed from married quarters,
  - (ii) three more houses as soon as possible thereafter, say for planning purposes by the end of 1964.

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3.

4. Provision of Technical Accommodation and Facilities.

- (a) DSD to process on appropriate papers, the following aspects of the project, with DEE and DNW
  - (i) works (mainly air conditioning)
  - (ii) · furniture
  - (iii) receivers and terminal equipment
    - (iv) aerial facilities
      - (v) installation, wiring, etc.
- 5. Communication Channels
  - (a) DSD to investigate the requirement for an additional 'covered' channel in 1964. (present facilities are adequate)
- 6. Promulgation

The attached letter informing all concerned is proposed.

/3 June, 1962

DSD

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### APPENDIX TO DSD MINUTE OF JUNE, 1962

PRESENT SITUATION REGARDING DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION AT DARWIN

#### 1. Men

#### (a) Darwin Naval Radio Station

- (i) About 8 spare beds can be made available in the men's barracks when the station is up to complement, by shifting non-watchkeepers to Larrakeyah.
- (ii) At present there are about 8 more spare beds because the station is below complement.

#### (b) Larrakeyah

In an emergency and subject to the provision of additional transport for watchkeepers, about 40 more men could be accommodated at Larrakeyah.

#### 2. Women

(a) Darwin Naval Radio Station

There are no spare beds in the women's barracks.

(b) Larrakeyah

There is no block available for the accommodation of women.

## DRAFT

Naval Officer-in-Charge, NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA.

1354

(Copies to: Flag Officer-in-Charge, EAST AUSTRALIA AREA Commanding Officer, HMAS HARMAN)

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES FROM HMAS HARMAN TO DARWIN NAVAL RADIO STATION

I am directed by the Naval Board to inform you that it is required to transfer certain receiving and handling activities from HARMAN to Darwin Naval Radio Station.

- 2. The initial stage, consisting of approximately thirty communication ratings is an urgent requirement. Naval Officer-in-Charge, North Australia Area is requested
  - (a) to confirm that accommodation is at present available for up to ten RAN ratings
  - (b) to assign temporarily two of the houses

    nearing completion at Coonawarra for the

    accommodation of up to twenty WRANS and to

    report when they are ready for occupation.
- 3. Subject to confirmation as in paragraph 2(a) above, RAN ratings will be drafted as they become available over the next four months. It is likely that there will be two LRO(S) and six ORO(S) involved.
- 4. When the report as in paragraph 2(b) above is received, up to eighteen WRANS ROs and two administrative WRANS will be drafted.
- 5. It is planned to replace the two houses mentioned in paragraph 2(b) in the 1962/63 Works Programme.

(space for DNW/DAP)

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- 6. Schemes of Complement will be amended in due course.
- 7. The Tachnical aspects of the transfer, namely the possibility of additional air conditioning in No. 2 Receiving Building and the supply and installation of additional receiving facilities are already the subject of separate correspondence.
- 8. The final stage of the transfer, consisting of one officer and about twenty additional ratings (mostly WRANS) will not take place until the necessary accommodation can be provided. (space for DNW/DAP)

Secretary