

*****C O N F I D E N T I A L*****S COPY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L EYES ONLY [REDACTED] WH42976

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PLEASE PASS TO GOMPERT/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY

OCTOBER 29, 1974

State Dept. review completed

TO: BREMER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: WILFRED BURCHETT DEFAMATION SUIT

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

REF: A. CANBERRA 6969
B. CANBERRA 7061

1. I HAVE ASKED THAT REFTELS BE REPEATED TO YOU. THEY BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION A DEFAMATION SUIT WHICH BURCHETT HAS BROUGHT AGAINST TWO CONSERVATIVE AUSTRALIANS, ONE A LEGISLATOR. BURCHETT ALLEGES THAT FORMER SENATOR KANE AND DENIS WARNER HAVE SLANDERED HIM BY THEIR DESCRIPTION OF HIS ALLEGED PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

2. AS PART OF HIS BRIEF BURCHETT HAS REFERRED TO A MEETING WITH YOU IN OCTOBER 1971 AS SUBSTANTIATING HIS BONA FIDES AS A NEUTRAL GO-BETWEEN. EMBASSY CANBERRA HAS ASKED STATE FOR CONFIRMATION THAT A MEETING IN FACT TOOK PLACE AND ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE YOU WOULD CARE TO OFFER.

3. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT YOU DID MEET WITH BURCHETT AT THE REQUEST OF ROSS TERRILL AT A BREAKFAST HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON OCTOBER 12, 1971. THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO MEMCON MADE. WIN LORD OR PETER RODMAN MAY RECALL MORE DETAILS.

4. IN THAT THE TRIAL MAY CONCLUDE OCTOBER 30, YOU MAY WISH TO CABLE GUIDANCE DIRECT TO CANBERRA. PLEASE ADVISE.

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